

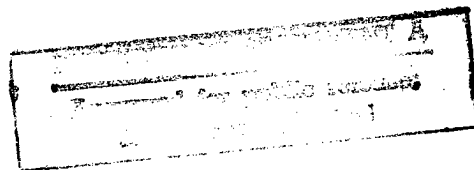
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Latin America Report



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2 May 1984

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WEST GERMAN ESSAYS ON LATIN AMERICA, CUBA, CARIBBEAN: ABSTRACTS

Latin American Economic Growth

Bonn AUS POLITIK UND ZEITGESCHICHTE in German 31 Mar 84 p 55

[Abstract of Hartmut Sangmeister, "Wirtschaftswachstum und Grundbeduerfnis-befriedigung in Lateinamerika" (Economic Growth and the Satisfaction of Basic Needs in Latin America) AUS POLITIK UND ZEITGESCHICHTE, B 13/84, pp 3-23]

[Text] The Latin American states have achieved impressive economic growth in the last two decades of development. Despite the relatively successful overall economic growth strategy in those countries, massive poverty, however, still is characteristic of that region. With the world economic recession since the early 1980's at the latest, also in Latin America the illusion has vanished that the industrial growth process could continue as before, as the motor for overall economic modernization. One alternative that offers itself lies in re-orienting the development policy leads toward better satisfying the basic needs of the population.

By means of a relatively simple system of indicators relevant to basic needs, deficits in four material basic need sectors are analyzed on a comparative basis for 22 Latin American states. Through a cluster-analytical analysis of available data, five fairly clearly distinct groups of countries are identified in terms of basic needs satisfaction. A comparison between these groups of countries leads to the realization that the average income level is not decisive for the basic needs satisfaction of the population. It turns out that economic growth by itself is not enough to ensure improvement in basic needs satisfaction. Most Latin American states have the necessary economic potential, to be sure, to eliminate at least absolute poverty; yet that potential can hardly be adequately used without fundamental revisions of the development style practiced thus far. Through many Latin American states' foreign debt crisis, however, their chances to correct their social, regional and departmental deformations are extremely limited.

Cuban Foreign Policy

Bonn AUS POLITIK UND ZEITGESCHICHTE in German 31 Mar 84 p 55

[Abstract of Gerhard Drekonja-Kornat, "Kubas Aussenpolitik: Das erneuerte latein-amerikanisch-karibische Profil" (Cuba's Foreign Policy--The Refurbished Latin American-Caribbean Profile) AUS POLITIK UND ZEITGESCHICHTE, B 13/84, pp 26-36]

[Text] The introduction points out that the United States has in the present century been looking at the Caribbean region as its very own safety zone. The Monroe Doctrine as well as, in particular, the much stiffer Roosevelt amendment defined the rules of the game for it, as the core of which it has to be accepted that extra-zonal actors have to be kept out of it.

The Cuban Revolution breaks with that premise because through this socialist revolution Havana brings the Soviet Union into that zone. Thus Cuba had to suffer bitter enmity from the United States. From that, in turn, the basic patterns of Cuban foreign policy can be derived. Because of U.S. hostility, Cuba has to look for revolutionary allies in Latin America, Africa and Asia or create them by giving aid to their revolutions, to escape the threatening U.S. strangle hold.

From that Havana develops a coherent, clear and ultimately even transparent foreign policy. In the 1960's Cuba sought to evade the isolation imposed on it through supporting revolutions in Latin America. When that strategy failed, Cuba in the 1970's shifted the accent of its foreign policy activity to Africa and became active in the nonaligned camp.

Vis-a-vis Latin America, it resorted to traditional diplomacy, which caused a far-reaching reintegration of Cuba in the community of Latin American states. Toward the Caribbean islands, Cuba successfully tried an aggressive cultural policy. In 1979 and 1980, when Nicaragua and Grenada offered unexpected opportunities, Cuba decided to reactivate its foreign policy of aiding revolutions in the Caribbean region. Because of the anticommunist containment policy of the Reagan administration, costs and risks went up for Cuba so that since the fall of 1983 a defensive position can clearly be discerned in Cuban foreign policy.

Caribbean in East-West Conflict

Bonn AUS POLITIK UND ZEITGESCHICHTE in German 31 Mar 84 p 56

[Abstract of Josef Thesing, "Wandel im karibischen Raum" (Change in the Caribbean Region) AUS POLITIK UND ZEITGESCHICHTE, B 13/84, pp 37-54]

[Text] A radical change is taking place in the countries in the Caribbean region. The economic, social, cultural and political problems they have to contend with, which are causing the instability in this region, cannot be separated from the external effects caused by international politics. Furthermore, these countries are of uneven economic and political importance. Despite its variety, contradictions and uniqueness, however, the Caribbean region is unmistakably an independent structure within Latin America.

The international importance of this region is due to the fact that there the interests of the two superpowers collide directly. The Soviet Union is trying, via Cuba and Nicaragua, as an outside partner, to exploit the internal unrest in those countries for its own strategic ends. That affects American security interests directly. A change might have long-range effects on the military equilibrium in the world. Events around the island of Grenada in October 1983 have made that clear.

On the long run the problems of the countries, states and islands in the Caribbean region can be solved only if the causes of the internal instability are eliminated. That calls for a meaningful economic and political reform policy, shored up by a security policy negotiated with the United States.

5885

CSO: 3620/244

FOURTH MISSILE-EQUIPPED CORVETTE IS LAUNCHED

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 31 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] Rio Santiago--Dr Raul Alfonsin presided over the christening ceremony for the missile-equipped corvette "Parker." It is the fourth of a series of six constructed by AFNE [State Shipyards and Naval Factories] under a German enterprise franchise.

The president's wife, Maria Lorenza Barreneche de Alfonsin, was the ship's sponsor. The ceremony was also attended by: Minister of Defense Raul Borrás; Gen Julio Fernandez Torres, joint staff chief; Rear Adm Ramon Arosa, chief of staff of the navy; Secretary of Industry Carlos Lacerca; other officials; and the 2,000 laborers and employees of the shipyard.

The president arrived at the AFNE installations in a helicopter. He was welcomed by the president of AFNE, Vice Adm Carlos Torlaschi, and by the governor of Buenos Aires, Alejandro Armendariz.

Torlaschi Speaks

After the national anthem was played by the Naval School band, the head of AFNE spoke. Vice Admiral Torlaschi recalled that the construction program for six Meko 140 corvettes began in October 1980. The "Parker" is the fourth in the series. He said that the remaining two will be launched before the end of the year.

He added: "We hope to use this acquired capacity to construct new units to export to friendly countries and to satisfy our navy's requirements for logistical and training ships and even aircraft carriers." Then the chaplain of the navy, Pablo Sosa, blessed the ship and Mrs Maria Lorenza Barrenche de Alfonsin activated the traditional device. While she said "I christen you 'Parker,'" the champagne bottle shattered against the hull of the ship.

The corvette "Parker" displaces 1,790 tons, is 91.2 meters long and has a beam of 11.08 meters. It has a maximum speed of 27 knots. It is propelled by two diesel motors. Its armament includes two double mounted 30/70 Breda machine-guns, one Otto Melara 76/82 cannon, an Exocet MM 38 missile system, two mounted torpedo tubes and one helicopter.

FAVORABLE BALANCE SHOWN IN TRADE WITH JAPAN

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Mar 84 p 6

[Text] According to a report made public by JETRO [Japan External Trade Organization], the official Japanese Government organization for the promotion of foreign trade, Argentina had a surplus of \$232,057,951 in its trade with Japan in 1983. It exported merchandise worth \$543,716,280 and imported merchandise worth \$311,658,329.

These figures, based on data from the Japanese Ministry of Finance, reflect an improvement in exports and the Argentine trade balance with that country. Exports increased about 31.6 percent and the balance increased 59.3 percent compared to 1982.

It should be pointed out that in 1982 the Argentine trade surplus was mainly tied to the sharp decline of imports from Japan after the high levels reached in 1980 and 1981. This was not the case in 1983 when the trade expansion was based on an increase in bilateral trade. Argentine purchases from Japan increased about 16.5 percent despite existing restrictions. As to the composition of Argentine exports, almost 75 percent corresponded to food products like horse meat, fish and especially sorghum. The Japanese bought more than \$288 million of sorghum. Also Argentina sold \$68 million of aluminum and about \$13 million of ethyl alcohol.

Japan mainly sold Argentina electrical machinery worth approximately \$130 million, iron and steel products worth \$44 million, telecommunications equipment worth about \$18 million and railway equipment worth almost \$17 million. The relative importance of imports of highly technical supplies and machinery from Japan continued. In recent years, these have displaced finished products.

To conclude its report, JETRO pointed out that the impetus in Argentine-Japanese trade demonstrated that, in spite of notorious distance problems, the complementary nature of natural, human and economic conditions in Argentina and Japan continues to be the basis for the development of important relations between both countries.

SOVIET VISITOR REAFFIRMS SUPPORT ON FALKLANDS ISSUE

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Apr 84 p 5

[Excerpt] Victor Volski, director of the Latin American Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, indicated that his country will support all the steps Argentina takes to recover the Falkland Islands through negotiations.

He explained that, in his opinion, the international community "is ready and prepared, after the UN resolutions, for Argentina to validate its sovereignty over the islands through negotiations."

Volski is considered the most important Soviet expert on Latin America. He said that, in his opinion, the countries of the "Third World" must face "the problem of the foreign debt collectively."

On Tuesday he gave a speech at CARI [Argentine Foreign Relations Center]. He explained his trip to Argentina as part of a scientific exchange tour that also includes Brazil and Peru.

Foreign Debt

Concerning the foreign debt problem that Latin America faces, he indicated that perhaps "it is the hardest problem this part of the continent must endure since the creditor countries are looting through the enormous interest rates established for the loans."

In his opinion, they must fight the debt "collectively."

He added: "All the 'Third World' is interested in renegotiating and forcing the multinational banks to obey some rules of decency."

He said that "the new economic order also includes a common front by debtors facing the brazen looting."

Falklands

Concerning the conflict between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the Falkland Islands, Volski said: "Everyone supports the just demand for sovereignty over the islands and the decolonization of those archipelagos."

He said that the USSR does not agree with the military way the events in the South Atlantic began. However, he added that the international community is ready, after the UN resolutions, for Argentina to recover the islands through negotiations.

Haig

He was asked about statements by Alexander Haig in a book on the Falklands in which he indicates that a Soviet submarine might have torpedoed a British aircraft carrier. This success was attributed to Argentine ships. He said: "These were merely speculations by the U.S. general."

Memories

He recalled that he attended a meeting between Argentine and British diplomats in Washington seeking "conciliation" at the beginning of the conflict.

He said that the British asked him then if the USSR was going to support Argentina militarily. He responded: "I don't think so, gentlemen, because if we supported Argentina, it would unquestionably win."

Democracy

About the influence that the restoration of democracy in Argentina can have on this part of the continent, Volski noted that, in his opinion, "the inauguration of a constitutional government in this country is a historical example not only for this part of the continent but for the entire world. It has been demonstrated that the solution is not military repression by a dictatorial government."

He noted that this method of government "is no longer a solution for U.S. plans or for the highly developed nations with capital. It does not mean complete and unlimited obedience."

He added that the political model of authoritarianism has been passed up by history. However, the United States does not recognize that and will try to impose authoritarian regimes as in Central America.

7717

CSO: 3348/354

DLP REVISION: MP'S FREED OF PARTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 1 Apr 84 p 3

[Text]

THE St. John branch of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) will take steps shortly to free sitting DLP members of Parliament of any office in the administration of the party.

This intended move, which will be made by way of an amendment to the party's constitution, was revealed last week by Opposition Leader, Mr. Errol Barrow, who is also MP for St. John.

Addressing the St. Michael North-West constituency branch of the DLP at St. Stephen's Junior School last week, Mr. Barrow said: "We will be asking the rank and file members of the party to set the parliamentarians free, so that members of the House and Senate can devote all of their energies to the task of setting the people free."

There existed in the DLP, Mr. Barrow said, a super-abundance of administrative and organisational ability, combined with the political skills necessary to mobilise greater involvement of ordinary members in the management and the decision-making process.

He pointed out the need to encourage active "people involvement" in national affairs.

"Under any future DLP government", the Opposition Leader said, "ministers, parliamentary representatives, and senior public officers with specialised knowledge will be required to go out to every nook and cranny of Barbados and inform the people before hand of measures which it is proposed to introduce into Parliament on their behalf for the better government of the country".

He added: "By this process of prior consultation, note will have to be taken of the view of the electorate in order to achieve as far as possible, a national consensus."

CSO: 3298/695

UNION LODGES COMPLAINT AGAINST NATIONAL BANK WITH ILO

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 29 Mar 84 p 9

[Text]

THE National Union of Public Workers, NUPW General Secretary, Mr. Joseph Goddard, has disclosed that a preliminary complaint against the Barbados National Bank has been lodged with the Geneva-based International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Mr. Goddard pointed out that the Trinidad-based regional office had been written informing it of the NUPW's long-standing difficulty of obtaining recognition as the accredited representative of the BNB staff and seeking one piece of information concerning the issue.

"This information has been received. Meanwhile the regional office has forwarded a copy of our letter to its Head Office in Geneva," he said.

DETAILED COMPLAINT

"A detailed complaint will still be lodged shortly with the ILO stating the issue and setting out its history. This will be supplemented by photocopies of the Chief Labour Officer's letter adjudicating in favour of the NUPW; stating the fact that the NUPW has the necessary number of members among the BNB staff required for the granting of recognition to a trade union for the purpose of bargaining; informing of the fact that the BNB is an agency of the Barbados Government; reminding the ILO that Barbados has been a member of the ILO since 1967 and have ratified ILO Convention No. 87 (which recognises the right of workers to associate freely and to belong to trade unions) and Convention No. 98 (which recognises the right of

workers to form trade unions and to engage in collective bargaining).

The complaint will also provide photo copies of letters written to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Labour.

AN AFFILIATE

Mr. Goddard said that the Barbados-based Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) and the International Confederation of Trade Unions (CFTU), both organisations of which the NUPW is an affiliate will be officially informed.

The IRO-FIET, (the Inter-American Regional Trade Union Organisation) which represents bank workers at the regional level and to which the NUPW is affiliated, will be requested to instruct its members at BNB counterpart banks (banks in the region, USA, and so on with which the BNB does business) to boycott the handling of transactions involving the BNB.

Mr. Goddard expressed the view that the BNB was a national disgrace to Barbados in that it was not only denying workers the right to trade union representation but also was flouting the accepted authority of the local Labour Department and deliberately disregarding basic industrial relations practice.

"We don't understand what these people in charge of the National Bank are trying to prove other than how much industrial disharmony and dislocation they can provoke," Mr. Goddard said.

ARMY TO INSTALL ELECTRONIC WARFARE TRAINING CENTER IN BRASILIA

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Apr 84 p 23

[Text] Brasilia--More than changes in war doctrines and theories, the result of the Battle of the Falklands--which by now has been dissected in all essentials by the staffs of the Brazilian Armed Forces as a way of learning what to do or not do in a modern conventional war--has been to alert the army to a major problem that until now has not been dealt with in the instruction manuals: electronic warfare, an activity that consists of disrupting communities [as published; presumably communications intended] and other electronic systems during a war.

Beginning next year, the Brazilian Army will start installing in Brasilia--because of its proximity to the Army Staff (the operations center), DENTEL [National Telecommunications Department] (the maintenance center), and the UNB [Brasilia University] (a potential research center)--its Electronic Warfare Training Center. For the purpose, it will mobilize its entire system of communications, intelligence, and data processing. The sophisticated training center for electronic tactics will incorporate high technology and serve to train specialized personnel able to form an electronic warfare company: "a pioneer organization in electronic warfare," according to the Army Media Center.

Domestic Market

The Army Staff, which is the ground force's organization in charge of the new center's feasibility studies, is still keeping everything an absolute secret, but the Electronic Warfare Training Center has been described as follows by the Army Media Center: "It is a training establishment whose purpose is the training, specialization, and updating of the manpower required for electronic warfare activities."

Information concerning the center is also sparse at the Engineering and Communications Department, which oversees the Data Processing and Communications and Electronic Materiel Directorates. The reason is that data processing will enter the picture only because the computer system will be used with the electronic materiel.

But one thing is certain, according to one of the sources consulted on the subject: with every day that passes, even the most sophisticated war materiel is

becoming obsolete very rapidly owing to the speed with which countermeasures are being produced in the technologically developed countries. So electronic warfare is not being developed as part of what is commonly called modern warfare. Instead, it is part of the activities intended to interfere with the use of electronics in a conventional war.

According to one of the officers we contacted, the army has little equipment so far, but it is preparing to ask for the immediate manufacture of more by private firms. One of the probable suppliers on the domestic market will be ENGETRONICA, a subsidiary of ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc.], the state-owned enterprise that produces tanks. It was recently formed through the purchase of IMBELSA.

One of the most serious disruptions suffered by Argentina during its war with Great Britain over ownership of the Falklands was the garbling of its communications transmissions over a single frequency. In addition to the casualties recorded in the land and sea battles, British professionals with highly sophisticated equipment caused total confusion in the message transmission system being used by Argentine soldiers. The reason was that British communications equipment quickly picked up the frequency being used by the enemy and began transmitting on that same frequency. Today the Brazilian Army is aware of the existence of modern equipment that transmits on several frequencies, and it intends for domestic industry to quickly begin the necessary research so that it will be able to incorporate such equipment in the near future.

One general made it clear that in the context of electronic warfare, the Falklands War showed above all else how electronic equipment should not be used, and this is directly related to the increasing use of missiles in their various and different versions. One example used abundantly by Brazilian military in their conferences on electronic warfare draws attention in particular to the correct use of antimissile missiles, which were responsible for the surprising sinking of the British ship carrying helicopters. That ship, when it was hit, was near the aircraft carrier "Hermes," also British. Modern armed forces now have devices designed to deflect missiles. One of them, 'chaps' or 'chap,' was used by the "Hermes" when the Argentines attacked it with an air-to-surface missile.

11798
CSO: 3342/90

FAB TO HAVE AMX FIGHTER AIRCRAFT IN 3 YEARS

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Apr 84 p 23

[Text] Brasilia--If all goes well, the Brazilian Air Force [FAB] will be receiving the first batches of its AMX fighter plane 3 years from now. The AMX is planned as the successor to one of the most successful combat planes in the history of aviation: the U.S. A-4 Skyhawk. The first prototype of the AMX will be flown in Italy in mid-June, and that date is being awaited with great anticipation by the FAB's pilots and officers.

The new aircraft is being viewed as one of the solutions to the many gaps in the Brazilian Air Force, whose combat strength is currently regarded as relatively low. According to an evaluation by the FAB itself, Brazil ranks third in South America in air firepower. Venezuela is first, and Argentina is second. Ranked behind Brazil are Peru, Chile, Ecuador, and Colombia.

Brazilian Technology

Design work on the AMX--"A" for Aeritalia (an Italian company), "M" for Macchi (another Italian company), and "X" for Experimental--began 7 years ago, when the Italian Air Force felt the need to replace its Fiat G-91 fighter plane by 1987.

In March 1980, the FAB announced its intention to participate in the project. A year later, military authorities from the two countries signed an agreement under which Brazil took responsibility for approximately one-third of the costs and also for developing certain Brazilian technologies (digitizing, for example) that might be useful in the undertaking.

In Brazil, the AMX will have to be even more versatile than the Skyhawk. That is more or less what happened to the poor Aeromacchi MB-326G, an advanced Italian trainer which, manufactured in Brazil and rechristened the Xavante, began to be used not only for training fighter pilots but also for aerial reconnaissance, ground attack, interception, and even maritime bombing.

Designed to be a modern air combat and ground-attack plane, the Brazilian AMX will have extra fuel tanks to increase its range without reducing its bomb load. In that configuration, the AMX will be able to fly strategic bombing missions, meaning that it will be able to take off from Rio Grande do Sul and reach

targets in Argentina's interior, for example--which is one of the possibilities envisaged by the FAB staff.

The version designed for equipping the FAB will therefore be a little different than the one that will fly the Italian colors, but not as different as the Brazilian military would like. At first, for example, it was thought that the AMX might also be produced in a naval version that would give the air force and navy a more powerful naval air component and--even more important--one comparable to that in neighboring Argentina. To date, however, the changes attempted on the drawing boards at EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] have only shown that the idea is not feasible.

Four years ago, the Ministry of Air also thought it would be able to order 144 AMX aircraft all at once. That original order is now down to an estimated 79 planes that will be distributed basically in three clusters: in the north, south, and center of the country.

In terms of strategy, what is new is the effort by the FAB to provide better coverage in the skies of northern Brazil. In recent years, new landing strips for military jets have been built in Amazonia, especially in the states of Amazonas and Rondonia.

That is a direct result of concern over the recent purchases by the Venezuelan and Peruvian Air Forces. In 1976, Peruvians tried to buy U.S. Phantom fighter-bombers. Washington's refusal had the result of bringing 52 Soviet SU-22 fighter-bombers into South America--and they were just the beginning of a flood of Russian armaments that included helicopters, tanks, and, as always, the accompanying Soviet and Cuban military technicians.

Venezuela, on the other hand, benefiting from the U.S. concern over Cuban expansion in the Caribbean, eventually received a dozen F-16A fighter planes like those used by the USAF in NATO, the naval version of which is being used by the U.S. Navy in its missions in Lebanon.

11798

CSO: 3342/90

RECORD SOYBEAN PRODUCTION, CORN, RICE, BEAN LOSSES PROJECTED

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Apr 84 p 38

[Text] The dry weather in the country's Center-South Region, which accounts for over 90 percent of the nation's agricultural production, is going to harm the corn, rice, and bean crops this year, predicts the Ministry of Agriculture.

The latest available estimate--made in February--indicates that soybean production will reach a record total of 15.9 million tons in 1984, a quantity that will probably not be revised downward in the April estimate. In the case of rice, however, the projected 8.7 million tons (compared to 7.3 million tons in 1983) will probably be reduced by 300,000 tons.

As a result of the drought in Irecé, the main bean-producing area in Bahia, the bean crop will be well below the 2.4 million tons estimated in February, but above the total of 1.6 million tons harvested in 1983. As far as corn is concerned, the forecast will fall to 21.5 million tons, compared to the 21.9 million tons estimated in February and the 18.3 million tons harvested last year.

Cotton Big Failure in Minas Gerais

Belo Horizonte--A drop in the yield per hectare of the main crops (cotton, rice, rainy-season beans, corn, and soybeans) is what is facing Minas Gerais farmers in the 1983-1984 harvest.

Strictly speaking, only soybeans may show significant results, both in area planted (which jumped from 257,520 to 332,847 hectares) and in production (607,340 tons, compared to 477,520 tons in the last harvest). This was the only crop to exceed forecasts by the Secretariat of Agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture. But the soybean yield fell from 1,854 to 1,825 kilograms per hectare.

Another crop showing a significant advance was rainy-season beans. There was a 42-percent increase in area planted--from 187,698 to 267,946 hectares--and production totaled 94,071 tons, compared to 66,911 tons in last year's disastrous harvest. The results are nevertheless well below what was expected in September 1983, when it was thought that 116,186 tons would be harvested (429 kilograms per hectare). But the drought reduced the yield from 356 kilograms to 352 kilograms per hectare.

Cotton was the big failure of the season. Higher prices for the product led growers in the northern part of the state to increase their planted area from 83,414 to 107,111 hectares. But the drought and the lack of resources for tending the crop resulted in a 38-percent drop in production--from 110,908 to 68,016 tons.

Ceara Harvest: 220,000 Tons of Cotton

Fortaleza--The Secretariat of Agriculture feels that this year's harvest in Ceara was harmed by the lack of credit to cover farming costs, irregular rainfall, pests in the fields, and the lack of seed. Even so, production estimates are good, according to Marlio Fabio Falcao, coordinator of agricultural statistics for the IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics).

The production of upland cotton has been estimated at 135,000 tons from a planted area of 225,000 hectares, while that of tree cotton has been estimated at 87,600 tons from an area of 700,000 hectares (both types together totaling 220,000 tons). Estimates for other crops: beans: 173,322 tons from a planted area of 480,000 hectares; corn: 176,400 tons from an area of 420,000 hectares; and tomatoes: 35,000 tons from an area of 1,400 hectares.

Those estimates, which were made public at the end of March, are practically the same as those made in early February of this year. The only change concerns upland cotton and corn. The area planted in corn declined because the farmers preferred to plant upland cotton, the reason being that weather conditions made it possible to plant that crop through the end of April. The harvest is expected to begin in July.

Soybeans: Rio Grande do Sul Estimates Revised

Porto Alegre--After 2 years of poor grain harvests, Rio Grande do Sul's production is expected to return to normal this year. Governor Jair Soares is predicting a grain harvest of over 13 million tons--less than the original estimate of 16 million tons but more than the production achieved in the 2 previous years. In 1983, the harvest totaled 11.53 million tons, while in 1982 it was about 10.59 million tons. The dry weather in November and December, added to heavy rainfall and pests in January, damaged the crops. Soybeans, for example, were planted on an area of 3.65 million hectares, and it was expected at first that 6.2 million tons would be harvested. But the current estimate is for 5.69 million tons--a drop of 8.2 percent in terms of what was expected at planting time, according to the IBGE.

The largest drop occurred in the case of corn, which was quite seriously affected by the dry weather. At the start of the season, 4.6 million tons were expected from a planted area of 1.9 million hectares. At the moment, with the harvest practically complete, the estimate is for 3.63 million tons.

Parana: Earnings up 363 Percent

Londrina--Twelve percent of the grain crop in Parana, which accounts for 30 percent of the nation's food production, will be lost this year because of the

dry weather. The drop amounts to about 1.3 million tons or 420 billion cruzeiros. Despite that, the state's grain harvest will be 1.8 percent higher than in 1983 for a total of 11.1 million tons.

Those figures are from economist Norberto Ortigara of the Department of Rural Economy in Parana's Secretariat of Agriculture. Production from the summer grain harvest will bring in 3.5 trillion cruzeiros, compared to 1.3 trillion cruzeiros last year.

The value of the soybean crop is up by 363 percent owing to higher prices for that oil product on the domestic and foreign markets. Production will be worth 1.3 trillion cruzeiros, compared to 345.2 billion cruzeiros in 1983.

In terms of percentages, cotton was the crop most seriously harmed by the dry weather, with 15 percent being ruined. Production should total 550,000 tons at most. The soybean crop (covering 30 percent of the cultivated area) will be down 500,000 tons from the original forecast to a total of 4.3 million tons.

Jute: Imports Criticized in Amazonas

Manaus--As a result of the threat facing the main crop in Amazonas (jute and malva, estimated at 60,000 tons by the Secretariat of Rural Production and at between 45,000 and 48,000 tons according to data from the Federation of Agriculture), the government of Amazonas has brought in the entire Committee on Agriculture and Rural Policy from the Federal Chamber of Deputies (14 deputies) to visit the jute plantations. Its purpose: to try to influence them against the decision by CACEX [Foreign Trade Department] to authorize the importation of 23,000 tons of the product directly from Pakistan and India.

"It is a discriminatory, odious, and antipatriotic measure," said Euripedes Lins, chairman of the Federation of Agriculture, who has already protested to Minister Nestor Jost that those imports cannot be made now because the total jute and malva harvest, which will be completed in June, has not been determined and it is therefore impossible to know how much fiber will have to be imported. The mere expectation that imports will be authorized has already helped reduce the price from 550 cruzeiros to 400 cruzeiros per kilogram, and that is discouraging the jute growers.

Rice Crop May Drop by 20 Percent in Goias

Goiania--Infestations of Cercopidae and Cimicidae, poor-quality seed, a shortage of fertilizer and, chiefly, the unseasonable weather have caused "considerable" damage to planted areas in Goias, according to a March report by the IBGE's Department of Agricultural Statistics.

Some of the losses are significant in terms of the forecasts made in January, when the season was showing "normal development with prospects of good harvests." Although the problems began in that same month, it was expected that damage to upland rice, for example, would not amount to 1 percent of total production. But production is already down by 18.86 percent, and the loss may reach 20 percent.

Under attack by prolonged sunshine and also, in part, by froghoppers and wind, the most severely damaged crop this season was upland rice (the most important crop in Goias). There were losses throughout the state, with the highest percentages being recorded in Alto Tocantins, southeastern Goias, and the Goias side of the Paranaiba River. The crop forecast has fallen from 1.26 million to 964,000 tons. The second most damaged crop was soybeans, the expected production of which is down by 7.84 percent (down by 85,870 tons).

Maranhao Intends To Be Among the Leaders

Sao Luis--With grain production of approximately 2 million tons in its 1983-1984 season, Maranhao expects to be among the country's three largest rice producers. In 1982, it reached second place with 1.6 million tons of rice, but in the following year it dropped to sixth place because of the drought, which reduced its harvest to only 432,000 tons.

Among those most optimistic about this year's excellent harvest is Governor Luiz Rocha, who is one of the state's biggest rice and soybean growers. He says that if rain continues in all of Maranhao's 132 municipalities, rice production will total over 1.2 million tons, exceeding expectations.

The forecast by the Secretariat of Agriculture, which is based on data provided by the IBGE's coordination and agricultural statistics group, calls for 24,000 tons of beans (in two harvests), 250,000 tons of corn, and approximately 2.5 million tons of manioc.

Onions: Record 70,000 Tons in Bahia

Salvador--Although opening up new prospects for producers in the remote backlands of the Northeast, the rain that has been falling through much of Bahia's interior cannot immediately undo the devastation caused by 5 years of drought. As a result, the state will probably experience one more year of unsuccessful or irregular harvests. Only onions have beaten the record with 70,600 tons, representing an increase of 87 percent over 1983.

The bean and corn crops were planted at the end of last year, and harvesting should be getting underway now, but they have been practically destroyed by the sun.

At the start of the year, the CEPA (State Agricultural Planning Center) Foundation had calculated that out of an expected harvest of over 1 million sacks, the Irece producing zone would account for only 88,000, but according to producers, the harvest will not even reach that level. The concern now is to get enough seed to plant again and take advantage of the winter rains.

Early harvesting of cacao will begin in May. This is also due to the lack of rain in the southern part of the state in December, January, and February, and the harvest will be down by 40 percent for a total of just under 2 million sacks.

Sugarcane: Sao Paulo up by 5.4 Percent

Sao Paulo--The state of Sao Paulo is expected to produce approximately 4.6 million tons of rice, corn, soybeans, and beans in 1984, according to the Secretariat of Agriculture. Those figures represent a drop of 5 percent in terms of the estimate made at planting time (in November of last year).

Compared to the 1983 harvest, production will be down by approximately 8 percent, since 5 million tons were harvested last year. The forecast shows that the "unseasonably cool weather" in January did not have a major effect on any of Sao Paulo's crops except rice. The reasons for the drop in production, according to Devancyr Romao, director general of the Institute of Agricultural Economy, are the higher cost of financing, more expensive inputs, and seed quality. The rice yield will be 1,282 kilograms per hectare, compared to 1,848 kilograms last year.

Other crops that are of great importance to the state's economy and to exports will show an increase. Sugarcane production should total 114.3 million tons for an increase of 5.4 percent over the last harvest. Orange production should total approximately 8 million tons for an increase of 4.3 percent over the last harvest.

Mato Grosso Increases Planted Area

Cuiaba--According to forecasts by the Mato Grosso Secretariat of Agriculture, this year's harvest will set a new record: approximately 2.1 million tons of grain will be harvested, compared to 1.7 million tons last year.

The state's main crops are soybeans, rice, and corn, and of those three, soybeans will show the biggest increase. Production is expected to jump from last year's 611,000 tons to 1 million tons this year.

Rice and corn have remained stable in terms of last year's harvest. Rice production should be in the neighborhood of 746,000 tons, while corn production should total about 319,000 tons. The area planted in rice dropped significantly, going from 784,000 hectares in 1983 to 574,000 hectares this year, although the yield has improved.

Another important product is sugarcane, production of which has increased considerably over the past 2 years due to the establishment of alcohol distilleries. The crop forecast for this year calls for a total of 1.4 million tons from a planted area of 25,393 hectares.

Luiz Carlos Victorino, general coordinator of the Secretariat of Agriculture, says that if everything goes well, those estimates will not change. The only fear is that rainfall will be prolonged, thus damaging the crops.

Beans in Pernambuco Devastated by Plant Louse

Recife--Unlike the southern part of the country, Pernambuco does not begin harvesting its crops until April. Because of the 5 consecutive years of drought,

the State Agricultural Planning Commission (CEPA) issued a cautious forecast in January, when the planting of certain crops was beginning. It was allowing for the Aerospace Technology Center's predictions that there might be a sixth year of drought.

It is raining in the backland, but there is a shortage of credit and of seed for planting, according to Aluisio Ferraz, managing director of CEPA. In the scrub woodland, where 50 percent of the grain crop is grown, the drought is continuing.

In the main bean-producing region (Araripe in the backland), the harvest is beginning, but the crop has been harmed by plant lice. In the same region, corn--which will be harvested in June--will be in danger if the rain does not continue in April.

Paulo da Fonte, who is in charge of agricultural planning for CEPA, explained that the rain is concentrated only in specific regions.

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HUMORISTS ADDRESS PROBLEMS IN PROFESSION

Havana EL CAIMAN BARBUDO in Spanish Feb, Mar 84

[For related material see JPRS-LAM-84-037 of 23 March 1984 pp 18-23]

[Feb 84 pp 16-18]

[Interview with Carballido Rey, Rene de la Nuez and Wilson by Lourdes Pasalodos: "More Opinions, No Conclusions"; date and place not given]

[Text] The collectives from DDT and PALANTE, Rene de la Nuez and Carballido Rey were to attend the second meeting of humorists convoked by EL CAIMAN to continue the debate on television humor. We still don't know why the DDT cartoonists weren't present although obviously it is no joke. Wilson rescued his publication's pride. He explained that they were going to press that day and it was hard for more comrades to attend. Carballido and Nuez--by order of appearance--came through the door at the set time. Therefore, we can fulfill our commitment to our readers today.

Our magazine has not given up the idea of continuing the dialogue. It hopes that when humorists cannot attend, they will notify us as is usually done in these cases unless the rules have changed.

We gave the floor to Carballido, Nuez and Wilson:

Question: Carballido, do you concede that humor is in crisis in general or only on television?

Carballido: If creation is the appropriation of reality, we are not carrying out that precept.

Question: The comrades we interviewed earlier stated that graphic humor has improved in the last 25 years.

Carballido: That is true. I was referring to humorist writers....Graphic humor can take certain liberties that we cannot do on television.

Question: What are the guidelines for television humor? Nunez Rodriguez tried to explain this at the last round table but I still don't understand.

Carballido: There are some guidelines on creativity in the mass media-- independent of the documents from the congresses--that refer to the work method. They are very general guidelines. What is there really? Well, a criterion that some day must be examined in depth about what is appropriate for television. It is said that a joke in a newspaper that some 200,000 people read might be unacceptable on a program that 4 million see because it has greater impact.

Question: What is your opinion?

Carballido: We are limited on television. The comrades in charge of the humor shows are not humorists; they are officials. I think the administration and the officials are dangerous in art.

Question: Going back to the matter of guidelines, why can't sex be handled humorously? I think an appropriate way can be found to humorously reflect the problems that exist: early pregnancy, marriage of very young couples, the alarming rise in the divorce rate. Is it because you have not yet found the effective language?

Nuez: When possible, I would like to speak.

Carballido: I share your opinion. I agree with what you say.

Question: Nunez Rodriguez tried to explain to me. He gave me sex as an example. He said: We cannot go beyond the guidelines. I think the problem does not lie in the guidelines but in the lack of an appropriate way to reflect these topics. If so, the situation would change. It is not the guidelines but the humorists, right?

Carballido: No, it is not the guidelines. It is the people who have to analyze what someone writes.

Nuez: I am very concerned about the statement that Cuban humor is in crisis. It is necessary to analyze the differences among the different media and the language of each one. There has been great progress in graphic humor. Today we have 40 or 50 first-class cartoonists, major awards have been won in the international Biennials and our supplements have improved considerably. I want to expand on this last part later. I also don't believe there is a crisis in topics. The challenge for the humorist is to know how to choose them.

The problem with television is that there is no language for the medium. The style of the capitalist stage is still hanging on. We are tied to old characters, to the nobles and the rabble, and that is not right. It is necessary to find and give life to socialist characters with quality as our motto.

I don't believe sex is taboo. Pornography is taboo, certainly, but not sex.

At the last round table some changes were proposed for the Biennial. I agree with the comrades that there must be changes but I disagree with the opinion that it should be held in Havana City.

Question: The idea of the other comrades was as follows: that San Antonio continue to be an important part of the Biennial but places like the Pabellon Cuba, the theaters and some radio and television programs be part of this festival of humor.

Nuez: That is very easy to say! I will definitely go along with whatever is decided but it seems wrong to me. It is as if it were decided that the Song Festival would not be in Manzanillo but in La Rampa. Why does everything have to be in the capital? I think it is necessary for the experiences of the Biennial to reach the rest of the country.

Question: Do you agree that the Biennial should include a theoretical event?

Nuez: Of course! We have tried to do this but people don't come. When they do come, they don't talk. We are going to be clear! When we have organized theoretical events, no one has talked. The things being discussed here are not presented at theoretical events, especially if leaders are present.

Question: Can't the idea that the Biennial be extended to theaters, television, radio and the exhibit halls be carried out?

Nuez: Yes, we have tried. We have spoken with the ICAIC [Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Arts and Industry] about having a week of movies. This has not been achieved. Neither has it been possible to get the theaters to show comedies....

We also have the problem that people don't write. I think it is true that there are no incentives for the humorist writer. Each one earns social prestige--a topic that the comrades also covered in the last interview--with his work. No one is going to be granted the order of social prestige. If we humorists want to have social prestige, we have to produce quality work. It is the only way to win the recognition of the people. Incentive is another thing. It is possible to take steps but, I repeat, always with quality as our motto. Courage and quality. I think we Cuban humorists have enough artistic personality to solve our problems.

I don't believe all humor can be anti-imperialist. Humor cannot function as a system: "Everyone now do anti-imperialist humor." It is necessary to give the people quality and variety. Humor is a happy way of learning and our humor has to assume its role on all planes to help form the new man through the different media.

The humor weeklies are still weak. They don't have writers. DDT does not have anyone to write it, as Garcia Marquez would say. It is true that there are no humorist writers but that is not just because they are not paid. There are other problems. Humorous books are not published. There is no chance to write for radio and television. Theater has its playwrights. No competition in Cuba includes humor. The only one is the Marcos Behemaras and none of the winning scripts in the past 2 years has been put on. That is discouraging because if you write a script and win a prize, you want to see it on television or hear it on radio.

Question: Why isn't it done?

Carballido: Perhaps...for the same reasons I expressed before.

Question: The guidelines?

Carballido: Administration acting over creativity.

Nuez: There are problems, you know....We are also responsible; I criticize myself. The Humor Section of UPEC [Union of Cuban Journalists] convokes a cartoonist competition every year but we do not have a literary one. We are fighting for a budget to be able to give an award for literary humor.

PALANTE has the same writer crisis that the DDT has. It must be added that PALANTE is stagnant. DDT is repeating itself a lot although it still has freshness in its line.

I feel the crisis is not a catastrophe but we do need to analyze our problems with comrades who can help us. We cannot resolve the situation alone.

Carballido: It is necessary to theorize about humor. When I spoke of crisis-- I want to state this clearly--I was referring to what Nuez said. We have not found socialist characters. That is the crisis to me.

Question: The policy is correct and clear to you?

Carballido: Yes, but we have not been able to extract popular types at this stage.

Nuez: I think that is the most important thing in this conversation.

Question: Why aren't there humor advisers on television?

Carballido: Well, that is one answer I cannot give you.

Wilson: I agree with the comrades that we have to reflect the negative characters in our society. I think one test of our ability is to find them. On television there are problems with editors and it is true that there are no incentives. As to the Biennial, it has been stated that San Antonio is very limited because only the people from there attend. If this were a tourist center, the situation would be different. Many comrades, myself included, feel that the Biennial should be held in the capital.

Other comrades also spoke of the need to unite but traces of individualism persist in many intellectuals. They are revealed in different ways. There are those, for example, who say that the Biennial is Nuez'.

Question: Isn't he the president of the Humor Section of UPEC?

Wilson: Yes, but what is said is that "The Biennial is Nuez'...." "Nuez, Nuez, everything is Nuez." That is true and I state it responsibly. I believe we

are really divided. We have to unite, talk, discuss the problems of humor and find solutions. The officials and the party comrades must also participate.

On television there is not only the problem of scripts but there are also difficulties with the actors. Where are the reinforcements?

Question: There are young actors but they lack opportunity. They say it is the fault of the law.

Wilson: Yes, of course, there are reinforcements. If they are not put to test, though, if they cannot work, it is as if they did not exist. Where are the young actors in humor shows?

Nuez spoke of the stagnation of PALANTE and that is true. Something similar happens to us in television. It is also true that topics are repeated in DDT. In my opinion, some subjects are covered in extreme and inappropriate ways: the woman as object, infidelity....

Nuez: I want to talk about individualism because I do not completely agree with Wilson. We humorists have done many things together like the Festivals of Humor. There are many comrades who want to attend but cannot because of a misunderstanding in their agencies or enterprises about the political importance of these events. The balance of these festivals has been positive although we have to make some changes. They do not have theoretical events and the programs are still not well structured.

Question: Nuez, who would be the right person to encourage debate between the officials and the humorists?

Nuez: This debate that EL CAIMAN is holding can be considered a continuation of the one already begun in UPEC some months ago. It must continue through UPEC and the party DOR [Revolutionary Orientation Department]....

At the end of this second day on television humor, we did not reach any conclusions. We need the opinions of other comrades, including the advisers and officials of the ICRT [Cuban Institute of Radio and Television]. We also need the opinions of the people, the audience. We will be responsible for this. We invite our readers to write us their opinions on the humor shows on Cuban television.

The people we interviewed today felt that, in spite of the difficulties that the different media face, there is no crisis in humor. However, the situation is particularly precarious on television. According to them, there are administrative obstacles that impede its development, old plots are still used, the characters of the current stage are not reflected and there are no incentives for the writers.

As to PALANTE and DDT, they say there is stagnation in the former and repetition of topics and sometimes an inappropriate focus in the latter although it still has a light and pleasant line.

Opinions are divided on the Biennial. One group states it should be held in the capital and keep San Antonio as a secondary site. Another wants it to continue in the Home of Humor but extend to Havana City and transmit its experiences to the rest of the country.

The dialogue is not over....In March we expect Luberta, Carlos Ruiz de la Tejera, the comrades of PALANTE and DDT. We have not forgotten Melaito; they expect our visit soon.

[Mar 84 pp 8-9]

[Interview with Miguelito, Carlucho, Manuel, Rene and Ajubel from DDT by Lourdes Pasalodos: "Defend Yourself, Leave Me Alone"; date and place not given]

[Text] Our debate on television humor has expanded since the first meeting by desire or, more exactly, by need of those interviewed.

If you have followed the debate, you realize that no humorist has limited himself to the required topic of television which is our basic objective. The analysis has been enriched and other problems that make the development of humor in general difficult have been mentioned. In some cases, solutions have been suggested.

It is still necessary to talk to a lot of comrades. If your patience has not reached its limit, join our dialogue today with part of the DDT collective. Let us say in passing that, for some strange reason, they recently celebrated their 15th anniversary for the second consecutive year. (They say it is no joke.)

Carlucho: All the comrades who have talked in past interviews have agreed that graphic humor is more advanced than television humor. I think one of the reasons is that those of us who began in graphic humor after the triumph of the revolution started from scratch without taking models that had started 10 or 20 years before. Television programs are similar to those under capitalism in structure, not in content.

Ajubel: Television has had British comedy series like "George and Mildred," "A Man at Home" and "The Robin's Nest." They have had great popular success in spite of the fact that their content is opposed to our ideology. I think their success is due to their quality. It is unfortunate that programs about our everyday problems are not made here with that level of success.

Rene: Television humor does not use double entendres which are a valuable resource when handled well. "After-Dinner Happiness" has done it successfully enough.

Question: When you speak of double entendres, are you referring to sex or humorous double meanings?

Rene: It has a lot to do with sex....I also feel that "San Nicolas del Peladero" should not have disappeared. Perhaps they could have changed its time setting....

Question: That program was on the air for 25 years without changing its time frame. Do you plan to continue satirizing the past or have a regular humor show with current negative characters: the opportunist, negligent, absentee, bureaucrat or egghead...?

Rene: I think both should be done.

Question: You began talking about "After-Dinner Happiness." Do you think it is a good program?

Rene: Occasionally it has acceptable scripts. Luberta makes a great effort to keep it on the air every day.

Carlucho: Girl, it is impossible for one man to write a humorous script every day and for that script to maintain stable quality. Luberta is doing a gigantic task. A program of that frequency should have a team of writers to achieve quality and variety.

Rene: That is precisely why I referred to the program. In spite of all the difficulties, Luberta has been successful and it is a very popular program.

Carlucho: We have accumulated some experience in critical humor on DDT. When we began to use criticism, we had many problems. We still face them but we are not afraid of the problems. Our television comrades talked about guidelines. I don't know what they say exactly but I am sure that they are based on party policy and the party urges us to criticize. Therefore, I don't understand the television comrades' problem with guidelines.

Question: It is a matter of knowing what is happening with television humor. The guidelines are a guide for criticism and protect the integrity of man by excluding any allusion that hurts his dignity as a human being. Some humorists have said that television writers have not created socialist characters. This keeps them from criticizing current negative attitudes and finding a language more in tune with our daily life. You have expressed a similar opinion that the problem does not lie with the guidelines but elsewhere. One of these problems is the shortage of humorist writers. DDT also suffers from this. Why?

Ajubel: Because there are no incentives.

Carlucho: Look, humorous texts are not paid for because there is no budget. We have had good editors who have collaborated with DDT: Zumbado, Tejeiro and F. Mond. They wrote for DDT for a long time without collecting a cent. What have these comrades done? They now write humorous books for pay.

Ajubel: There is no budget although paid collaboration was approved in 1981.

Carlucho: For many years there was unpaid collaboration. At one time in the revolution, we gave up pay for collaboration but times have changed. Payment was legislated but what do we do with the law unless there is money to pay for the texts or cartoons?

Ajubel: Why aren't there cartoon books published when there is a strong cartoonist movement in Cuba? Because there is no pay.

Carlucho: Only the text of the cartoon, the words, is paid for, not the drawing as a whole.

Ajubel: Imagine. The one who works on humor without words is on his own. This is also unjust and works against quality because texts are included where they are not needed. That is another problem we humorists need to solve.

Question: DDT has participated in several television programs. What experiences did you have from that incursion into another medium?

Rene: There were two or three programs.

Carlucho: It was experimental.

Question: What was the idea?

Carlucho: We went out of curiosity. The lesson for us is that we can contribute ideas to television on topics and setting but not be actors. That was the role the program directors mistakenly assigned to us.

Miguelito: In addition, the only thing collaboration gave us was that DDT was on television. Each of us became better known among the people; that paid for our work. What interests us most is not being popular but working. It is also fair for us to be paid for what we do.

Manuel: Also "Youth, Youth" is not a humorous program. I don't understand the things that are on television. They took off "San Nicolas del Peladero" and what humorous program has replaced it? "George and Mildred" uses double entendres a lot. They leave it on while if something similar occurs to me, they veto it.

Miguelito: It is the same with the "Muppets."

Manuel: It is impossible to automatically transfer language from one medium to another.

Miguelito: You cannot take a joke from DDT and put it on television. However, it would be possible to act out some jokes, do something like Juan Padron's short films.

Manuel: Writing a television script is different from writing a joke. I think they have to do more for script writers, give them incentives and not take programs off the air.

Miguelito: In all the countries of the world there are regular comedy programs that the people follow; they have great public success. I don't think the solution is to take programs off. It is necessary to solve the problem of the shortage of script writers, have teams so that one comrade does not have to write two scripts a week or spend 25 years writing for the same weekly program.

Question: At the first meeting, Ajubel--who "reenlisted"--stated that the Humor Biennial should be held in the capital and have San Antonio as its secondary site. Nuez disagrees with that and said that it wouldn't occur to anyone to hold the Song Festival in La Rampa because the cradle of that genre is Manzanillo. What do you all think?

Miguelito: I think they are two different things. As Nuez said in that interview, I think we must sit down and analyze everything related to the Biennial. I personally feel that San Antonio is not the right site.

Carlucho: Our humor was not born in San Antonio....

Miguelito: It has been said that it is the Home of Humor because Abela and Nuez were born there....It has a tradition of humor.

Carlucho: Humor, at least in Cuba, is a national heritage.

Miguelito: This should be discussed at length. I have gone to the Biennial and the public only comes the day it opens. The rest of the time there are people out in the street drinking beer. You might find two or three stuffed shirts at the exhibit.

I want to support Nuez. It is true we have met and the people don't talk. I want to add that there is a lack of faith in things like this. I remember a year ago we drew up a payment rate for copyrights. We still don't know what happened to that document. That is discouraging. Of course, that is not the best attitude but the people sometimes react with apathy.

Question: At one interview someone said that DDT repeats itself a lot now. Do you agree with that evaluation?

Miguelito: We are not free from difficulties. We also have misunderstandings. In addition to writing the DDT, we prepare a stack of cartoons every day for JUVENTUD REBELDE, we do cartoons for the international page and the front page and even signs for the assemblies. In short, we have to resolve some questions internally about our content. It is true that we are repeating ourselves.

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CS0: 3248/525

DE CAMPS VIEWS INTERNAL DIVISIONS OF PRD

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 20 Mar 84 pp 1, 4

[Article by R. Rodriguez Gomez]

[Text] Last night Hatuey De Camps, secretary of the office of the president, gave the nation a detailed account of his public life as a student, politician and official. He criticized sectors of the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] who opposed him. He arrived at the conclusion that the PRD's divisive tendencies are the result of institutional weaknesses in that organization.

De Camps delivered a 55-page speech, lasting about 2 hours, over the state Radio Television Dominicana in defense of his public actions, some of which have been questioned by his fellow party members among whom are Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, secretary general, and Jacobo Majluta, president of the Senate.

The young politician stated emphatically that he will unalterably maintain his right to dissent.

He said that tonight, over the same radio and TV stations, he will continue the analysis of this historical and political process, "defining our definitive position."

(It is believed that De Camps may announce his decision to seek nomination as PRD candidate for president in the 1986 election.)

Many of De Camp's followers were present at the radio-TV broadcasting station during his appearance there. His speech was retransmitted also on the "Pulse of the Nation" program over La Voz del Tropico.

When he mentioned Dr Pena Gomez' statements about himself, De Camps said, "I respect, admire and like Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez."

He also spoke in defense of the friendship between himself and Dr Pena Gomez.

He said, however, "But there is something which I will not renounce, and about which I am intransigent and which I am ready to defend no matter what the occasion: my right to dissent."

De Camps feels that his "right to dissent is sacred and under no circumstances can it be conditioned upon expectations of assistance or of promotion based on unconditional servility."

He said, "I will not submit to such discipline, but will resist it and I will not compromise my principles which should always be carefully nurtured in order to make our friendship greater and stronger."

He also said that "The germ of divisionism within the PRD under present conditions results from the institutional weakness of the party itself in conjunction with a complacent attitude."

Hatuey De Camps said, "One does not have to go far back into history. Just look at Dr Pena Gomez' second speech in recent days when he said among other things, justifying the birth of the La Estructura movement, and I quote:

'The internal situation in the PRD is so delicate that a division can persist on both sides. La Estructura not only aims at reinforcing Jacobo Majluta's candidacy with nonparty elements but also, if he were defeated, with or without trickery, we are sure that intense pressure would be exerted on him to become a La Estructura candidate because the La Estructura movement's members are not PRD members and they will not work for 4 years to support any candidate other than Jacobo Majluta.'"

De Camps said that Gomez later on added: "Incidentally, the La Estructura movement was created by Majluta as an insurance policy to prevent his being taken by surprise at the last moment."

De Camps thinks that "these strange statements seem to have been conceived by the president of La Estructura rather than by the PRD leader."

On the other hand, De Camps said that due to "the force of circumstances" he had decided to end his silence regarding the PRD internal problems.

Referring to himself, De Camps said, "few times in the history of the Dominican Republic has a person been the target of so many intrigues, so much slander and so many bad attitudes."

Another clarification made by De Camps during his long speech refers to his alleged sentimental ties to former President Joaquin Balaguer.

De Camps said that it was 1978, when he was running for president of the Chamber of Deputies, that for the first time in his life he met and visited Dr Balaguer.

At that time he informed the Reformist Party [PR] leader that he had the votes needed for his election as president of the Chamber of Deputies but that he would like to be elected by a unanimous vote.

He clarified that "We did not negotiate with Dr Balaguer; we did not go to sell out nor to barter our principles; however, we were the target of maneuvers within the National Executive Committee when high PRD leaders claimed I had renounced its legitimate aspirations."

De Camps also disclosed that at present there is a permanent courier between certain PRD sectors and certain National Congress members and Dr Balaguer's residence.

9204

CSO: 3248/506

TWO LABOR CODE REFORMS PASSED BY DEPUTIES

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 19 Mar 84 p 9

[Article by F. Alvarez Castellanos]

[Text] Yesterday the Chamber of Deputies passed two important bills proposed by the executive branch, each of which modifies a different article of the Labor Code.

The first bill had been passed originally by the Chamber of Deputies during a previous legislative session but had failed to pass in the Senate. It was resubmitted by the president of the republic, Salvador Jorge Blanco, on 27 February 1984.

This bill proposes the reduction of the period necessary for the worker to be entitled to unemployment compensation from 6 to 3 months.

President Jorge Blanco explained in a letter to Dr Hugo Tolentino Dipp, president of the Chamber of Deputies, that "in this manner the minimum period for acquiring this right is identical to the period for the right of advance notice."

Compensation will be granted without any type of limitation or restriction when the contract ends without the worker being at fault.

The bill was studied by a special committee of the Chamber of Deputies which recommended its approval "exactly as it was presented by the president."

Amendment

The second bill modifies Section 9 of Book 7 of the Dominican Republic Labor Code. An amendment to the government bill was proposed by Dr R. Fadul Fadul, Dominican Liberation Party [PLD] deputy from Santiago de los Caballeros.

The changes provided for in the bill presented by the president, covering Articles 658 through 662, inclusive, "provide for an extension of the period for the filing of labor suits by setting the statute of limitation at 6 months for all legal actions."

It was stipulated that "this period of time will be considered public policy, any legal action becoming totally void once the period has elapsed."

In the bill a paragraph was added to Article 660 "through which it was desired to avoid the dangers entailed in the establishment of an absolute rule such as setting the starting point for the statute of limitations at the moment when the work relationship ends."

This paragraph provides that "only suits based on actions which occurred within 5 years previous to the end of the work relationship may be initiated."

The message from President Jorge Blanco which was sent with the bill to the Lower House, states, "By this means, even while maintaining concern for the principle of stability in employment, this will eventually eliminate conflicts related, for example, to the accumulation of compensations up to inadvisable levels or to the difficulty of presenting proof."

However, it was precisely this paragraph which was the subject of the amendment proposed by Fadul y Fadul who proposed that the period of 5 years previous to termination be eliminated and that the entire period from the beginning to the termination of the contract be taken into account.

The majority of the deputies accepted Fadul y Fadul's amendment and the bill, including the amendment, was passed on the first reading.

9204

CSO: 3248/506

INCREASED BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT FOR 1983 REPORTED

Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 2 Apr 84 p 11

[Text] Quito--The current account balance of payments deficit in 1983 was \$100 million, \$61 million more than was forecast in the economic program for the year.

The economic and financial program that the government implemented to back up its letter of intent and to later secure the standby loan from the IMF, set a goal of cutting the 1983 current account balance of payments deficit to \$39 million. The deficit in 1982 was \$1.05 billion according to the economic program and \$1.2 billion according to Central Bank statistics.

Not in Balance

The public sector deficit edged down 0.2 percent as a percentage of the gross domestic product. This does not mean, however, that the government's budget was balanced as of 31 December 1983. According to figures disclosed by Finance Minister Pedro Pinto, the 1983 budget closed with a deficit of between 14 and 15 billion sucres.

Additional Loans

Moreover, by year's end the country had failed to pay more than \$150 million of its external liabilities, even though it received the entire \$431 million in additional loans from international banks.

Major Progress

At his most recent press conference, Jose Correa, the chairman of the Monetary Board, said that one of the IMF executives who attended the meetings of the Management Committee on 20 March gave a rundown of the major progress that Ecuador has made in carrying out its stabilization program. This does not mean, however, that it has met all of its economic and financial goals.

A Central Bank press release clarified, however, that Ecuador did, in fact, meet the December 1983 goals set forth in the Monetary Stabilization Program signed with the International Monetary Fund.

Nevertheless, the IMF missions that were in the country recently drew up economic goals and policies for the remainder of the standby loan period, thus overhauling the Stabilization Plan that will be in effect until the end of this July.

8743

CSO: 3348/360

GUAYAQUIL EXPECTED TO DETERMINE OUTCOME OF RUNOFF ELECTIONS

Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 1 Apr 84 p 6

[Commentary by Walter Spurrier Baquerizo: "Guayaquil and the Candidates"]

[Text] The runoff campaign has begun. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal has just officially announced the results. The definitive elections are in 5 weeks. It is obvious, moreover, that the main battleground is going to be Guayaquil.

Borja won in 18 of 20 provinces. In all of them he had a well put together campaign that is still in operation and that will enable him to easily take first place again. In Guayas, however, his vote total was low, and in view of this Borja has made Guayaquil his general headquarters.

Febres Cordero won in Guayas and Los Rios. He came in second nationwide, not first as expected, largely because of the heavy voting for Angel Duarte, who took second in Guayaquil. His hopes of victory on 6 May hinge on garnering the overwhelming majority of the Duarte vote in Guayaquil and on the coast, as well as the votes cast for Aspiazu and other candidates.

Thus, the province is hearing all sorts of promises.

Promises that do not necessarily have to be kept after 10 August. Who remembers the pledges of 1978 and 1979!

Furthermore, is what the candidates are offering necessarily what Guayaquil needs?

What I am trying to say is that with this election the city and the region in general, which are so far removed from the centers of power and so unskilled in the use of the bureaucracy, have an opportunity to secure specific commitments that will this time enable them to obtain the proportion of government spending they deserve as a function of their economic contributions to the country and their demographic weight.

Regrettably, it seems that this opportunity, like so many others, will not be utilized. None of Guayaquil's many representative institutions has taken the initiative to bring together the city's and the region's various sectors and to set forth a specific list of priorities regarding projects to be undertaken and problems to be resolved.

There is a great deal of talk about the problem of the suburbs and the Guasmo. Has anyone specifically stated what projects are needed and whether the central government should undertake them and whether BEDE [Development Bank of Ecuador] ought to grant loans for them?

Then there is the problem of municipal finances. Has any thought been given, for example, to the need for the government to nationalize the municipal schools? It is unheard-of for a municipality such as Guayaquil to have to defray the costs that the central government ought to be covering through the Education Ministry. In 1979, when the Roldos administration took over when oil was expensive, the opportunity was there. But no one brought the issue up.

We should also remember the longstanding problems that the Welfare Council has had in receiving the funds it needs to maintain hospitals. Wouldn't it be a good idea to secure specific public commitments, along with draft decrees, resolutions and regulations, guaranteeing financing while a kind gesture towards the council is worth something, in other words, before the elections?

The problems plaguing public utilities and services could also be attended to: the centralization and breakdown of telephone service, the worsening and possible centralization of electric power, the gradual worsening of airline service from Guayaquil to other provinces and overseas, the almost nonexistent Guayaquil police force. The city lacks policemen but has more than enough traffic monitors, because we residents of the province pay for this service with an eight percent income tax surcharge, one that is charged only in this province and in Manabi for projects of interest there.

What does the city want in this regard?

As far as roadway projects are concerned, why, unlike other provinces, are projects of interest to our province not part of the Public Works Ministry's program?

Economic considerations are not the only ones. Whereas the Culture Palace is building a beautiful new complex near the Colon Hotel in Quito and the government is helping to finance the Plaza of the Republic, which will give the capital another modern theater, there are no publicly financed projects in Guayaquil that would meet even the minimal cultural requirements of a city with close to 1.5 million inhabitants. All well and good for Quito, which enriches itself with these projects. But Guayaquil needs to make a specific proposal on this point.

I do not intend this to be a list of the city's needs nor a list of demands for the candidates. Therefore, I will not broach the many other sectors that could be discussed. However, when in 1985 and afterwards any readers of this column are moved to say that "this government is not doing anything for Guayaquil," they should step back and recall whether when they were in a position to do so, the city, the province or the region got the brand-new president to make a specific commitment regarding their needs, a legally feasible (providing the enabling channels) and economically affordable commitment.

8743

CSO: 3348/360

BRIEFS

CONGRESSIONAL MAJORITY--The political parties that supported the Center-Left ticket of Rodrigo Borja Cevallos-Aquiles Rigail Santistevan will hold a majority in the next National Congress, not counting other parties that will join with them when it comes down to taking ideological stands. According to the results announced by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and the various provincial tribunals and according to the unofficial data gathered by AGENCIA DE NOTICIAS DE ECUADOR, the Center-Left bloc in Congress will comprise a total of 38 legislators, whereas the parties making up the National Reconstruction Front (FRN), which backed the Febres Cordero-Penaherrera ticket, will have only 16 representatives. The independent bloc will be represented by 17 congressmen. Official results from the provinces of Napo and Bolivar, which had been pending, are now in, and the vote count is almost completed in Guayas (the final returns will not cause any changes in the weighting factor). Thus, Democratic Left has been assured 24 seats, 3 national and 21 provincial. Its allies account for the remaining 14, as follows: Democratic Party, 1 national and 5 provincial; Ecuadorean Roldos Party, 1 national and 2 provincial; Broad Front of the Left, 1 national and 1 provincial, and Popular Democracy, 1 national and 2 provincial. The bloc thus has 38 deputies in all. The following is the breakdown of the 16-vote legislative strength of the FRN: Conservative Party, 2 provincial deputies; Liberal Party, 4 provincial deputies; Social Christian Party, 2 national and 7 provincial, and the Revolutionary Nationalist Party, 1 provincial deputy. According to the announcements made so far by the parties involved, the independent bloc in Congress will look like this: Concentration of Popular Forces, 1 national and 6 provincial; Alfarist Radical Front, 1 national and 5 provincial; Ecuadorean Socialist Party, 1 provincial, and the Democratic People's Movement, 1 national and 2 provincial deputies. [Text] [Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 2 Apr 84 p 3] 8743

MPD POSITION ON RUNOFF--The Democratic People's Movement (MPD), regarded as the number four political force in the country, has begun an intensive campaign urging voters to cast blank ballots at the presidential runoff election scheduled for Sunday 6 May. The MPD National Board has instructed its activists and affiliates to cast blank ballots at the upcoming elections and, at the same time, to undertake a campaign urging others to do likewise, thus letting it be known that they are not backing

either of the two tickets that qualified for the second round of voting. The national director of the MPD, Jaime Hurtado, worked on the campaign over the weekend in the province of Tungurahua, while the assistant national director, Jorge Moreno, who is also a national congressman-elect, did so in the province of Loja. [Text] [Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 2 Apr 84 p 5] 8743

CSO: 3348/360

ROLE OF PEOPLE'S COOPERATIVE UNITS IN PNC DISCUSSED

Corbin on Current Progress

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 5 Feb 84 p 8

[Text] Central Committee member of the People's National Congress and Minister of Mobilisation, Cde. Robert Corbin, told the gathering for the opening session of the five-day conference on local democracy Wednesday that the work on the formation of the People's Co-operative Units is well advanced.

He said that from the inception, the People's National Congress had declared itself a Socialist Party; and when it attained Parliamentary majority thereby forming the government, it practised what it declared.

Socialism is about giving all the people an opportunity to participate in the Regional system, a totally new system which embraces "every square inch" of Guyana", he said.

Cde Corbin explained that after a period of experimentation, the people have been able to solve some of the problems inherent in any new system. They are also establishing new systems, he added.

"By Sunday a plan of action for 1984 and the ensuing years is to be fully worked out," he said.

Earlier, Chairman of Wednesday's opening session, Minister of State in the Ministry of Regional Development, Cde Harold Singh, had said that the conference was historic since it was the first to be held following the establishment of the Regional system.

It was also fitting that PNC Leader, Cde Forbes Burnham, declare the conference open since he is the architect of the Regional system, he added.

Transformation to Socialism

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 5 Feb 84 p 8

[Article by Albert Henry, Central Committee Member, YSM]

[Text] All Guyanese must indeed be happy to learn that the vanguard Party, the People's National Congress, has advanced a new stage of development where the people within their close range of association will be actively involved in developing their units. Indeed, this is a process for genuine people's involvement. Socialist transformation will quicken when the People's Co-operatives are established.

The People's National Congress, a Socialist Party from its inception has spoken and has advanced the course for genuine people's involvement. We have witnessed the further development in Guyana since the establishment of the People's New Constitution--a constitution that set the stage for the development of the local democratic organs.

Indeed, people's participation has started and people's participation will never end. In fact, people's participation will quicken and develop stronger bonds of relation that will project love, unity and greater understanding.

The People's Co-operatives, the bottom of a six-tier system of local democracy will be the organisation that will mobilize the people for their own development.

The People's Co-operative, (in Region Three 104 People's Co-operatives are identified) will demand active participation by all. No one would like to be isolated.

The people in the People's Co-operatives would see that all work and participate. Laziness, malpractices, dishonesty, poor management, unpunctuality will be condemned by the people in their co-operatives. Outstanding performances will be well rewarded in the People's Co-operatives. Everyone will strive for excellency, incentives and rewards will be encouraged.

Every individual will be involved in social development of his co-operatives. Room for leisure, recreation, sports and culture will be promoted by the people themselves. Greater concern and a sense of responsibility will be demonstrated.

People's Co-operatives will demand better and proper accountability of the people who function within its range. As a council itself, it will give proper accountability to all the people within the People's Co-operatives. Accountability forums will be held and the leaders of the People's Co-operatives will answer to the people.

Significantly, the history of the people and their co-operatives will be easily documented. People in the co-operatives will identify working groups, resources that are available, production lands and area, types of crops, grown, where those crops are grown, inputs that are available and needed.

Leadership potential will develop quickly and responsibility will be shared and accepted throughout the co-operatives. Leadership is important in the people's co-operatives, for the leader in the People's Co-operatives must be responsible for the immediate organisation of production.

Production norms will be drawn up by the management committee of the co-operatives on the basis of recommendations from the work groups and the people. Economic zoning should be identified in each people's co-operative. At this level there will be real awareness of participating in economic decision.

In establishing the People's Co-operatives there will be need for a lot of patience and skill to persuade people to be involved. But I am convinced that in the final analysis all the people will contribute together to build their Co-operatives through persuasion and education.

The People's Co-operatives need to be fully identified through the use of billboards so that people could familiarise themselves with the location and boundaries.

The People's Co-operatives have given new spirit and life to the co-operative movement in Guyana. It has demonstrated its will that by working studying and learning, together we can develop Guyana.

CSO: 3298/699

PNC EVALUATES GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING, WEIGHS CHANGES

Length of Session

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 29 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] The recently concluded General Council meeting of the People's National Congress was extended over four days to facilitate the agenda which dealt with issues crucial to development at this time when the nation is in the grips of a severe crisis.

In addition to the economic nature of the crisis, the nation is also subjected to pressures from those who wish to see the death of Socialism in this part of the world.

Traditionally, General Council was a three-day affair but with the new measures to be adopted by the Party in 1984 future General Council meetings may continue to be four-day affairs.

The next meeting scheduled for mid-April begins April 12 and will be conducted over four days.

Need for Greater Relevancy

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 29 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] Discussions at future General Council meetings are to be more in keeping with the political nature of the body. General Council will discuss the need for changes with emphasis on various aspects of national development, the relationships with fraternal political parties and the new approaches to development.

Until recently discussions at General Council included reports on the physical state of affairs in the various Regions and sub-districts, and complaints.

But as Leader of the People's National Congress, Cde Forbes Burnham, noted, such reports should be dealt with at the Regional levels where the Regional Chairmen are representatives of the Party and the government.

Addressing one session of the last weekend General Council meeting Cde Burnham said the Regional Chairmen were appointed to work together, formulating policies set out by the Party and Government.

Questions of bad roads or other minor problems should be their responsibility and should be examined by the monitoring sub-committees established in the Regions.

"Discussions at General Council should be about matters of policy for example, the functioning of the education system, and the inhibitory factors in the system; how the Regions are going to take over the responsibility for educational institutions to ensure that the schools do not deteriorate," he added.

The new approaches in 1984 will demand that the Regions stand more and more firmly on their feet since the aim of the leadership of the Party is to streamline the Party and to lead Guyana closer to the goal of Socialism.

And if this is to happen then members of the Party will have to do away with debates and discussions on petty issues, Cde Burnham charged.

CSO: 3298/699

PNC'S YOUNG SOCIALIST MOVEMENT REPORTS NEW LEADERSHIP

Executive Committee Changes

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 29 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] National Chairman of the Young Socialist Movement Cde Eugene Gilbert, in presenting his report to the General Council meeting of the PNC last weekend, announced that on the recommendation of the Y.S.M. General Council the Central Executive Committee effected some changes to its composition. According to the chairman's report First Assistant Secretary, Cde Michael Scotland; Co-Treasurer, Cde Colin April; Subject Secretary Regional Organisation Development, Cde Courtney Butters; Subject Secretary Propaganda and Research Cde Mark Archer; and five other executive members have lost their seats on the Central Executive Committee.

Comrade Leroy Scotland and Cde Joseph McAllister no longer hold the post of Secretaries of Education and Sports respectively but they continue as members of the Central Executive Committee.

In an invited comment the Y.S.M. chairman said that these changes have come about as a result of varying reasons amongst which are non functioning of officers, unavailability as a result of studies and other activities.

New members of the Central Executive Committee are:- James McAllister, Leonard Dunbar, Brian Scot, Sam Edwards, Owen Williams, Roy Smith, Alfred Ramsarran, Debra Price, Clive Bowman, Rabby Naraine, Claude Henry June Braithwaite and Janette Grant.

The revamping was necessary in pursuit of the tasks outlined by the Fifth Biennial Congress of the People's National Congress and in an effort to streamline the YSM leadership in an effort to effect its 1984 programme.

The YSM holds its Fourth Biennial Congress this year.

Committee Appointments

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 29 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] Cde Haydock Giddens has been appointed Subject Secretary for Culture in the Young Socialist Movement.

Other members of the committee are Cde Courtney Graham--a Design Artist; Cde Edward Lashley--Popular Dancer/Dramatist; Cde Jermonica Aaron--Y.S.M. lead singer; Cde Richard Barton--Leader of the Y.S.M. Dance Corps, and Cde Nigel Douglas--Poet.

Cde Giddens, a longtime Y.S.M. Culturalist from New Amsterdam, had become a leading figure in the People's Culture Corps.

The Cultural Committee has already established a YSM string band with the help of Cde Norma Younge, PNC Executive Secretary. Efforts are now in train to fully establish a national cultural corps which combines all the Y.S.M. cultural teams in drama, music, art, poetry design fashion, craft and dance.

New Local Group

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 29 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] Dr. Mumtaz Majeed, recently graduated medical student from Havana University, has been elected chairman of the steering committee of the recently resuscitated Y.S.M. group based at Congress Place Annexe, New Market Street.

Other members of the steering committee are Cde. Patricia London--Secretary, Committee Members Cde Bibi Hussein, Cde Clifford Stanley, Dr. Richard Holford and Cde Henry Drakes.

The YSM National Chairman, Cde Eugene Gilbert in inaugurating the group outlined the movement's programme and challenged the group to be innovative and effective in pursuit of its objective.

The group will among other things, be expected to form a resource base of the organisation, as the group is mainly composed of Y.S.M. comrades who have had overseas training in different disciplines and who have returned to serve.

CSO: 3298/699

REVIEW OF LOAN PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN IRRIGATION PROJECT

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 29 Jan 84 p 4

[Text]

THE implementation of the Abary II Drainage and Irrigation project is designed to increase this country's ability to feed itself and at the same time achieve some measure of food security.

When completed, the project will bring about 14 800 hectares of land in the Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary area under rice cultivation. The project will also facilitate food crop cultivation, dairying, cattle ranching and agro-related industries such as food processing.

The project has been estimated at \$53.6 million (US) of which the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will provide \$42.0 million (US) or 78.4 per cent and the Guyana Government the other \$11.6 million (US) or 21.6 per cent.

The money will be spent on 278 kilometres of secondary irrigation canals, 304 kilometres of secondary drains, 608 kilometres of fair weather roads, 19 kilometres of all weather roads, and 334 hydraulic structures.

Abary II represents the second phase of the Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary Agricultural Development Programme. The first phase provides flood control and main drainage for 58 400 hectares of land and its functional capability depends on the implementation of the second phase.

The Government of Guyana first sought funding for the Abary II Project under the IDB's Fund for Special Operations (FSO) which provides loans at low interest rates to poor countries which need to strengthen their productive sectors.

Under the FSO, money is lent for 40 years with a 10-year grace period during which interest is paid at one per cent per annum. This interest rate is increased to two per cent per annum for the next 30 years.

However, the United States of America which is a major contributor to the IDB's financial resources prevented the loan from being approved.

The US disapproval was not based on technical grounds, since the Bank staff which examined the project found it to be feasible. It was based on their dissatisfaction with this country's general economic policies.

In particular, the US objection, rested on what was described as its dissatisfaction with Guyana's general economic policies, with special reference to the rice sector which it insisted should be privatised, special emphasis being placed on privatisation of sales into the Caricom market and on ownership of the large Guyana Rice Board mills.

The Guyana Government is however, firm in its view

that such a development would be to the detriment of the rice industry as a whole, and to the more than 20 000 small rice farmers in particular, and to the Caricom region with whom it has special government-to-government marketing arrangements relating to rice for several decades.

The government's view, it should be noted, was substantiated by relevant consultants' reports.

But since, agricultural development is pivotal to this nation's economic strategy, the government re-applied for the loan under the Bank's Ordinary Capital (OC) resources, an area in which the American Government cannot exercise a veto.

Loans made under the OC resources are more stringent with higher interest rates (about 11 per cent in this case) and a shorter repayment period of 25 years.

This change in funding will result in Guyana losing a net foreign exchange inflow of \$67 million (US) over the repayment period.

It is unlikely that this

process can be completed before end of March 1984, and Guyanese authorities will have to apply the keenest scrutiny to avoid cost increases.

This delay will in turn cause a further delay in the reaping of the benefits of the project and also an increase in the estimated cost of the project.

In addition, scarce resources which could be usefully deployed in other sectors would be tied up in the project for a longer time thereby leaving gaps in other areas.

In all these circumstances, Guyana will have to redouble its efforts and exercise its resourcefulness to ensure that the project is implemented at minimal cost and in the shortest possible time.

It must also be pointed out that workers who are involved in the project need to understand all these issues and to realise that Guyana has been posed a real challenge of minimising the disbenefits which the delayed approval of the project under harsher borrowing terms imposes on a nation as a whole.

CSO: 3298/700

INDIAN ENVOY AIRS HOPE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS IN 1984

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Jan 84 p 4

[Text]

THE Indian High Commissioner here, Gajanan Wakankar, sees India as further strengthening her ties with Guyana and increasing co-operation and cultural and other exchanges this year.

Speaking with the CHRONICLE on the occasion of India's 34th Republic Day anniversary, Mr. Wakankar said there were a number of ways in which the two Non-Aligned nations could benefit from each other.

Indian experts in agriculture, science, technology, engineering, education and medical health are working here under various agreements. Some of the experts came through UNESCO and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation

They work at the University of Guyana, Health Ministry, Guyana Sugar Corporation, Guyana Electricity Corporation, Guyana Mining Enterprise

and the Education Ministry.

The Indian government has also been offering scholarships to Guyanese students to study in that country.

At least two medical and two engineering scholarships are offered to local students each year, Mr. Wakankar said. There are also Hindi and other scholarships.

The Indian High Commissioner hopes cultural exchanges between the two countries would be improved this year.

Last year, two noted Indian scholars, Dr. Karan Singh and Dr. Surrender Singh, visited here and conducted lectures. And the renowned Raja and Radha Reddy, Indian classical dance team, performed here late last year.

The Indian Cultural Centre here, under the auspices of the Indian High Commission, has ongoing classes for students.

CSO: 3298/700

BANGLADESH ENVOY SAYS TRADE WILL BRING NATIONS CLOSER

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 29 Jan 84 pp 8-9

[Text]

BANGLADESH High Commissioner to Guyana Major-General Kazi Mohamad Safiullah has said increased trade between Guyana and Bangladesh will bring the two peoples closer.

Major-General Safiullah, who presented his credentials to Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid Friday at State House, said it was pleasing that Guyana and Bangladesh share similar views on many problems of the contemporary world.

Both countries, he said, were guided by "an abiding interest in improving the quality and life of (their) people through increased and meaningful co-operation amongst developing countries."

"It is, therefore, natural

to expect that the scope of mutually beneficial co-operation (between Guyana and Bangladesh) particularly in the field of trade and commerce will further widen bringing the two peoples closer."

In replying to the diplomat's remarks, Cde Reid said Guyana was committed to strengthening relations with Bangladesh.

He said Guyana looks forward to continued association with Bangladesh, bilaterally as well as in various international fora in the quest of "a regime of equality and social justice for all mankind."

Major-General Safiullah, who is also his country's High Commissioner to Canada will be based in Ottawa.

CSO: 3298/700

NORWAY LOOKS TO EXPANDED TRADE, ECONOMIC LINKS

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 29 Jan 84 p 8

[Text]

GUYANA and Norway are moving to strengthen diplomatic ties and establish trade and other essential economic links.

The new Norwegian Ambassador to Guyana, Mr. Frode Nilsen, has identified maritime transport, offshore oil exploration, fishing, forestry and hydro-electric power as some projects his country could explore.

Mr. Nilsen, who presented his letter of credence to Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid at State House, Friday, hoped that trade and commerce between the two countries would improve.

In an interview yesterday before he left for Trinidad, the Norwegian diplomat said Norway, a small country like Guyana, also has territorial problems.

But while Guyana has a land boundary dispute, Norway is faced with sea limit problems with its neighbours. However, Norway is seeking to settle amicably these issues with the differing countries.

Mr. Nilsen noted that Norway's expertise in maritime transport, fishing and offshore oil exploration could greatly benefit this country.

Norway's economy is largely sustained by the vast amount of oil found in the North Sea, which, according to the ambassador, has the largest oil platform in that part of the world.

His country exports nearly

40 million tonnes of oil annually, and has acquired high technology in oil exploration.

Mr. Nilsen came here early last week and held talks with President Forbes Burnham, Vice-President for Production Desmond Hoyte, Foreign Ministry officials and a few private agencies.

He said his government is now setting up a Ministry for Foreign Assistance, but guidelines for foreign aid are yet to be worked out. In its development aid packet, Norway opts to give assistance first to poor countries, especially those in Africa.

When he returns to Oslo, the Norwegian capital, Mr. Nilsen says he will inform his government and private businessmen of trading and other possibilities existing here. His government will then negotiate with Guyana for agreements of mutual benefit.

Trade and commerce between Norway and Guyana have been limited, the Norwegian ambassador said. But Prime Minister Reid told him that Guyana was ready to identify and promote areas of co-operation for the mutual benefit of both Guyana and Norway.

Mr. Nilsen, Norway's Special Adviser on Latin American Affairs, is also his country's ambassador to Jamaica, Barbados, the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago.

BRIEFS

DAYCLEAN PROBLEMS--The WPA regrets to announce that the party's West Coast Centre at Zeeburg has had to be closed. Members of the public may contact known party activists in the area or the Centre in Georgetown. Two weeks ago, the party took a decision to publish Dayclean once every two weeks, instead of once a week. At the end of three months we will review the decision to see whether it is possible to come out weekly again. The main reason for this decision is financial. We ask party supporters and all those who support the idea of a free press to make whatever contributions of paper, ink and cash they can afford. Contributions should either go directly to the Georgetown and Berbice centres or to known party activists and a receipt secured. [Text] [Georgetown DAYCLEAN in English 4 Feb 84 p 2]

JOURNALISTS UNION--THE Union of Guyanese Journalists (UGJ) on January 14 last held its annual general meeting at which representatives of progressive journalism in Guyana were present. These include the editors and writers for Mirror, Thunder, Combat, Youth Advance and Women Unite. At the meeting Janet Jagan, Editor of Mirror and Member of Parliament, was returned unopposed as President of UGJ, while Moses Nagamootoo was elected General Secretary. The annual meeting indicated the need for the union to put out a bi-yearly publication on the tasks and problems of Guyanese journalists and issues relating to the freedom of the press. High on the agenda of the UGJ is the convening in the course of the year of a national seminar on the New International Information Order and the Democratisation of information in Guyana. The Union of Guyanese Journalists is an affiliate of the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ). [Text] [Georgetown MIRROR in English 22 Jan 84 p 4]

SOYBEAN OIL DONATION--THE NETHERLANDS government has offered to give Guyana 1,000 tonnes (5,000 drums) of soyabean oil, about three months supply worth about US\$875,000. The Guyana government is reported to have accepted the gift. The method of distribution has been agreed on by both parties and discussions are in progress as to the price to be charged. The controlled price of cooking oil is at present \$3.95. The commodity is in very short supply, as the Guyana Oil Mills has no rice bran or copra to mill and is carrying out plant maintenance. [Text] [Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 29 Jan 84 p 3]

UNION SYMPOSIUM--PRESIDENT of the Guyana Mine Workers' Union Stephen Lewis said on Tuesday night that there should be no political division when dealing

with workers' interest and called on trade unionists and workers not to mix up their priorities. Cde. Lewis was one of the three senior trade unionists who addressed workers at a symposium at the Clerical and Commercial Workers' Union (CCWU) which was organised by a number of unions affiliated to the Guyana Trades Union Congress. Cde. Birchmore Philadelphia, General Secretary of the CCWU said that it is a pity that some of the things that workers paid for with hard labour have been lost because of the attitude of some employers. He said that the time has come for the workers to build a stronger trade union movement. Cde. James Dastajir, an official of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union called on the workers to unite so that they could get their just reward. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Feb 84 p 8]

GLU-COMPANY ACCORD--THE Guyana Labour Union and Toolsie Persaud Limited on Tuesday signed a new collective agreement which will provide increased wages and salaries and better working conditions for about 150 workers. Cde Stanton Critchlow, General Secretary of the union, said that the agreement, counter-signed by Cde Marva Bascom, Senior Labour Officer will run for two years. Toolsie Persaud, Managing Director and George Prashad, Personnel Manager signed for the company, while signing for the union were Cde Critchlow, Cde Carbil Duncan, Assistant General Secretary and Cde R. Brooms. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Feb 84 p 1]

TUC FOCUS ON WAGES--THE Executive Council of the Guyana Trades Union Congress has asked its "Technical" committee to put up an urgent report on new wages and salaries for workers in the public sector. Cde Joseph Pollydore, General Secretary of the TUC said that the decision was taken at the meeting of the Executive Council on Wednesday night. He said that the Council had earlier received a interim report on the effects of the adjustment of the Guyana dollar on workers wages, and the effects the price increases on consumer items and other articles have had on the consumer. The General Secretary said that shortly after the report is received from the "Technical" committee the TUC hopes to open negotiations with the Government on the question of wages and salaries for public sector workers. Cde George Daniels, Senior Vice-President of the TUC is head of the Technical and Research Committee. He is also President of the Public Service Union (P.S.U.). [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Feb 84 p 8]

BRAZILIAN MISSION--DISCUSSIONS on technical co-operation in agriculture and agro-industry between Guyana and Brazil will get under way today in Georgetown. A nine-member Brazilian mission arrived yesterday evening for talks. The discussions, relating to a Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation signed by the two countries, are expected to cover a wide range of joint projects in the fields of livestock, crop development and food processing. The Brazilian team will be led by the Brazilian Ambassador to Guyana, Mr. Octavio Jose de Almeida Goulart and will include a number of experts. The Guyana team will include Cde. Winston Murray, Head of the Department of International Economic Co-operation of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Cde. John Browman, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, and Cde. Hubert Jack, Guyana's Ambassador to Brazil. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Feb 84 p 8] FIVE members of the visiting eight-man mission from Brazil yesterday morning visited the Food Processing Unit of the Guyana

Pharmaceutical Corporation [GPC] to observe the different stages of processing of the carambola. Members of the mission, who arrived in the country on Tuesday, are holding discussions on a technical co-operation agreement between Guyana and Brazil. The agreement, on agriculture and agro-based industry, is concerned with cassava-flour production, soya bean production and processing, fruit and vegetable processing and cashew production and processing and the slaughtering of animals. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Feb 84 p 1]

CALCINED BAUXITE--THE Guyana Mining Enterprise [GUYMINE] is seeking to increase the level of its calcined bauxite production by increasing the operations of its dust recycling plant at Linden. Increased operations of the plant will reduce the incidence of air pollution in the Linden community and convert calcined dust, which was previously dumped, into calcined bauxite pellets. The three million (G) dollar dust recycling plant which was targetted to produce five tonnes of bauxite pellets per hour has now been programmed to produce 30 000 tonnes of the product by the end of the year. According to Process Engineer, Michael Bart, the decision to recycle calcined dust resulted from the tremendous loss of bauxite which takes place during the calcining process. The increased calcined bauxite production which will result from the recycling process will assist the company to satisfy its traditional markets and also to recapture those which were lost during the past five years, Bart said. Guyana at one stage held 90 per cent of the world's market for calcined bauxite. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 24 Jan 84 p 1]

GAS PRICE HIKES--NEW prices for petroleum and petroleum products were announced by the Trade Ministry in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette published Monday. They were effective from last Saturday. At the new tariffs, super gasoline will cost \$7.02 per gallon, a 13 per cent increase. The old rate was \$6.23 a gallon. Regular gasoline has moved from \$5.97 a gallon to \$6.71 a gallon, a 12 per cent increase. Diesel oil has moved from \$4.54 a gallon to \$5.28 a gallon, while kerosene oil, sold previously for \$4.20 a gallon is now \$4.87 a gallon. For cooking gas, a 20-pound cylinder is now sold for \$23.01. The old rate was \$19.76. Finance and Economic Planning Minister, Carl Greenidge told the Chronicle yesterday that petrol distributors were satisfied with the new prices. He added that there was no shortage of petroleum and petroleum products in the country, and there was no need for hoarding and blackmarketing. Cde. Greenidge said Price Control Inspectors were visiting gas stations throughout the country to ensure there was no infringement of the new price regulations. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Jan 84 p 1]

PRAWN SMUGGLING--THE continuing illegal exportation of prawns has prompted officials of the fishing industry to take a more serious look at the situation to try and halt the racket, since the seafood is one of the country's foreign exchange earners. According to Executive Chairman of the Guyana Fisheries Limited (GFL), Robert Williams, a meeting is to take place shortly with the relevant officials to arrive at a suitable solution to identify owners of luggage moving out of the country. Airport officials have in recent times, intercepted a number of suitcases filled with prawns. The owners of these suitcases have not been identified, since luggage slips carry serial numbers

and not names. Cde Williams repeated that a licence must be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Division before prawns could be exported. Licences will be granted, he added, after the Ministry is satisfied that the prawns are acquired legally. The illegal export of prawns is directly related to the parallel market. Hucksters sell prawns overseas and in turn purchase consumer items to sell locally. [By Lindsay Davidson] [Excerpts] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Feb 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/701

LABOUR PARTY ELECTS TWO NEW DEPUTY SECRETARIES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] Two new officers were elected by the Central Executive of the Jamaica Labour Party on Sunday.

They are the Hon. Errol Anderson and Mr. Ryan Peralto in the posts of Deputy Secretary. Mr. Horace Chang, a former Deputy Secretary, did not seek re-election.

A news release on Monday said that Central Executive unanimously re-elected the following officers: Chairman, Dr. Ronald Irvine; Deputy Chairman, Mr. Alva Ross; General Secretary, Mr. Bruce Golding; Deputy Secretary, Dr. Mavis Gilmour; Treasurer, St. Clair Shirley; Deputy Treasurer, Mr. J.A.G. Smith.

Appreciation for "the dedicated service" given by the General Secretary who served in that office since 1974 and by the Treasurer since 1971, was recorded at the meeting.

The meeting, held at the JLP's headquarters gave a standing ovation to the Party Leader, Mr. Edward Seaga, in recognition of his accomplishment in "turning around the country's negative growth" inherited from the previous Administration, the news release said.

Special recognition was given to former Party Leader, Mr. Hugh Shearer, and former Minister of Government, Mr. Lynden Newland, for their contribution to the country and the Party.

CSO: 3298/663

MORE ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE, OTHER ECONOMIC ISSUES

Bar Association Objection

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Mar 84 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] A call has been made on the Government by the Jamaican Bar Association to repeal the section of the Exchange Control Act which was amended by Parliament on Tuesday of this week and which deals with the responsibility to company officers for breaches of the Act.

A meeting of the Council of the Association, held on Monday of this week (before the amendment was passed by the House of Representatives) considered the amendment as then proposed; and issued a statement in which it urged the Government to repeal the Section and to withdraw the amendment.

Wynter Appeal

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Mar 84 pp 1, 3

[Excerpts] A plea that the Government should consider carefully the criticism in the Gleaner of the Amendment to the Exchange Control Act, and withhold advising the Governor-General to assert to it, has been made by the Editor of the Gleaner, the Hon. Hector Wynter.

Speaking at the 140th annual Sales Awards Banquet of the Jamaica Mutual Life Assurance Society on Friday, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Mr. Wynter said that some would argue that the Amendment was unconstitutional in that directors of companies in which foreign-exchange exporting took place could be deemed guilty and had to prove their innocence.

Mr. Wynter was referring to the Amendment by the addition of a new Section 6A to the Exchange Control Act which would deem directors of companies culpable for foreign-exchange irregularities, unless they could prove that they had done everything possible to prevent them. The Amendment was passed on Tuesday, March 20, by the House of Representatives.

Mr. Wynter said he hoped that the Attorney-General, on reading the concerns and criticisms published in the Gleaner would persuade his senior colleagues, including the Prime Minister, to reconsider or withhold the Bill from the Governor-General.

Mr. Wynter said that the social welfare projects of redistribution of wealth before creation of wealth indulged in by Governments had now caught up with the country and Jamaica was facing a crisis of shortage of foreign exchange.

He counselled that production was the answer to the shortage, not panic by the society and panic measures by the leaders. He quoted Jeremy Rifkin who in a 1980 book on "entropy" had written about the world situation as follows:

"Each day we awake to a world that appears more confused and disorderly than the one we left the night before. Nothing seems to work anymore. Our lives are bound up in constant repair. We are forever mending and patching, our leaders are forever lamenting and apologising. Every time we think we have found a way out of a crisis, something backfires. The powers that be continue to address the problems at hand with solutions that create even greater problems than the ones they were meant to solve".

Seaga Insistence

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Mar 84 p 3

[Text]

THERE IS now ample good reason for everyone to understand that the government is not joking with the matter of foreign exchange, and would stand by the full intention of control regulations, the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, told Parliament yesterday.

Mr. Seaga said he urged everyone simply to do what was right and what was expected. He said so during a debate in the House of Representatives on a resolution moved by him seeking approval of the new payment system for the tourist sector, where he listed serious breaches of the regulations.

Mr Seaga said:

"There is ample good reason for everyone to understand that this government is not joking with this matter and we will stand by the full intention of our legislation. So that we urge everyone simply to do what is right, and what is expected".

Responding to criticisms that measures included in the new amendments to the Exchange Control Act were "draconian", Mr. Seaga said:

"All that this Government has done is to update penalties; indeed there are some who believe that the penalties, judging from recent events, are still too soft. But we have upgraded penalties so as to bring them more in line with the seriousness of the offence."

"In other measures that we have introduced, we have not gone beyond what already exists in legis-

lation.

"I introduced a matter here recently concerning exchange controls and the liability which is placed upon directors of corporations. In that respect, the very provision exists in a range of legislations, indeed in another section of the very same legislation. I am therefore amazed to hear the nonsense about unconstitutionality.

"This Government has no desire to be unconstitutional, nor to introduce anything that can smack of being unconstitutional. We have too much respect for the Constitution. We defended it at a time when it was under serious threat; at a time when I didn't hear any voices talking about unconstitutionality. The government intends to maintain that pure record.

"I have no special preference for how the end is achieved, providing it

is constitutional and that is not draconian. There are many ways to achieve the end that we seek. I have invited the private sector to have their representatives meet with me, to look at an alternative to the end that we seek, but let me say what that end is.

"When the legislation of the country places in the hands of the company the responsibility to collect, on behalf of the Government, statutory dues, such as P.A.Y.E., contributions such as N.H.T., N.I.S., Education Tax, H.E.A.R.T. Tax, and such foreign exchange receipts as that company may find itself acquiring, then it cannot be the responsibility of the director to say that his only responsibility, or that of company, is to ensure that the company has a good bottom line; that the company makes profit. But, that the company's other statutory responsibility is ignored, because that responsibility is placed on the company by Government.

"The law of the country places that responsibility upon the company, and once the law places the responsibility, those who run the company have that responsibility. And all that we seek is that those who run the company take the necessary steps to ensure that there is a regular report once per month, to say that the obligations of the company have been discharged insofar as the Government's requirements are concerned in the collection of P.A.Y.E., N.H.T., N.I.S., Education Tax and H.E.A.R.T.

"And, that the obligations of the company, which are discharged insofar as the collection of export receipts are concerned, are in keeping with the law which says that they must be brought back to the country after 90 days.

"All that it requires is that the Managing Director must make a report at every board meeting, every month, to say that this has been

done; nothing more, nothing complex. And once that has been done and this system has been put in place, directors are to discharge their responsibility.

"As to the question as to whether there is any onus or burden of proof upon the individual as to whether he is guilty or not, or whether he has to establish his innocence, that is a matter which lawyers will argue about, and which I was prepared to argue about too in terms of endeavouring to find any point which will avoid any suspicion that there is any intention of using any such legislation, even though it existed before, even though it is already part and parcel of our laws from 1941, and have since been passed in similar terms since we have been independent, to indicate that there is no intention to place the burden of proof in the wrong direction.

"It is our hope that we will find the solution to satisfy our requirements, because our requirements can be satisfied very simply, by very simple regulations set out at the level of the company.

"I read where someone said that those regulations were introduced during war-time days in the United Kingdom. We don't fight that kind of war, but we are fighting a different kind of war; a war of survival insofar as foreign exchange is concerned.

"In our peculiar circumstances the times don't differ. The years may differ, but the period carries the same intensity. For those of us who are concerned about the welfare of the country and its development prospects and the benefits that can be given to the people, the same sense of urgency exists today.

But that will never lead us to introduce legislation that we consider either to be excessive, draconian or unconstitutional. We will find ways of achieving our aims without those".

New Treasury Bill Limit

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The House of Representatives yesterday approved an increase in the Treasury Bills limit from \$500-million to \$750-million. The new payments system for the tourist sector was also approved.

Both resolutions giving effect to these matters were piloted by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga.

The increase in the Treasury Bills limit was proposed in Ministry Paper No. 12 dated March 15, 1984, while the new payments system for the tourist sector (use of Jamaican dollars only as legal tender) was contained in Ministry Paper No. 10, which was laid on the Table of the House on March 20, 1984.

Speakers in the debate on Ministry Paper No. 12 were Mr. Seaga; the Leader of the House, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith, the Hon. Karl Samuda, Minister of State for Industry and Commerce; Mr. Neville Murray (West-Central St. Mary), and Mr. Ryan Peralto (East Central Kingston).

Speakers in the debate on Ministry Paper No. 10 were Mr. Seaga; the Hon. Anthony Abrahams, Minister of Tourism; the Hon. Douglas Vaz, Minister of Industry and Commerce; the Hon. Dr. Mavis Gilmour, Minister of Education; and the Attorney-General and Minister of National Security and Justice, the Hon. Winston Spaulding.

A Bill amending the Stamp Duty Act to give the Stamp Commissioner general power to enter into agreements for the composition of Stamp Duty, was piloted by Mr. Smith. It was passed.

Bills seeking to postpone the holding of general elections under the Parish Councils Act and the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC) Act were tabled.

These Bills seek to extend the time appointed for holding of Local Government elections from not later than June, 1984, to no later than June, 1985.

The Memorandum of Objects and Reasons said that it was unlikely that the Director of Elections would be able to prepare and make the necessary revisions of the Voters List in time for the elections to be held not later than June, 1984 as required by the Act.

The Clerk of the House, Mr. Edley Deans, laid on the Table of the House a copy of each of the following:

Appropriations Account 1980/81 of the Town Planning Department;

Appropriations Accounts 1982/83 of the Ministry of Tourism, including Capital.

The House commenced sitting at 2.08 p.m. and there were 27 Members present at the Roll Call, including the Speaker, the Hon. Alva Ross.

PNP Criticism

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] The P.N.P. has criticised the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr. Edward Seaga for the growth in the budget deficit.

A statement issued by Mr. Seymour Mullings, the Party's spokesman on Finance, said in part:

"The details of the Budget recently presented by Mr. Seaga to the House of Parliament tell a frightening tale. The Government's projections, as was expected, were wrong on almost every count. However, most worrying to the People's National Party is the size of overall deficit which now stands at the overwhelming figure of \$1,085 million or 15.6 per cent of G.D.P.

"As is his wont, Mr. Seaga has sought to blame everything on everyone but his incompetence. In fact, he has sought to lay some of the blame for this deficit at the feet of the PNP which has been out of office for three and a half years.

"The fact is that the blame for the growth in the Budget deficit belongs to Mr. Seaga and to him alone. He established the targets for the decline in the size of the budget deficit in the 1981 Extended Fund Facility which was failed twice in 1982.

"Paragraph 26 provides the targets set by Mr. Seaga. The IMF programme required that the Current Account deficit should move from 5 per cent of G.D.P. in 1981/82 to a surplus of at least 1 per cent of G.D.P. in 1983/84. Rather than a surplus, the deficit has worsened, growing to 7-8 per cent of G.D.P. in 1983/84. At the same time the overall deficit should have been reduced from 14 per cent of G.D.P. to 10 per cent of G.D.P. Instead, it has grown to 15.6 per cent of G.D.P.

"These targets were established by Mr. Seaga--Not by the PNP. For him to attempt to pass off the blame at this time is pitiable.

"A major part of Mr. Seaga's incompetence relates to the unrealistic projections for growth in revenue contained in the 1981 IMF Agreement. Most prominent, of course, would have been the increased revenues from bauxite production which was projected to grow by 50 per cent to 18 million tons per annum".

CSO: 3298/663

NWU REGIONAL COUNCIL WANTS GREATER UNION SOLIDARITY

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] The National Workers Union (NWU) Region Six Delegates Council has passed a resolution calling for solidarity and co-operation among trade unions in furthering the common interest of the workers.

The Council in a statement issued on Thursday said that the resolution was passed at their recent meeting at the East Street head office of the NWU.

The resolution said that the delegates called on all workers and trade unions to recognise their common problems and revitalise the concept on which the trade union movement was born.

The resolution said: "Anti-worker forces have been able to push workers backward, because the big employers of labour have stuck together in defending their interests against price controls, import regulations and better wages for the workers.

"In furthering our common interest as workers, it is necessary to have solidarity and co-operation in struggling for the following demands:

"Amendment to the Termination of Employment and Redundancy Payments Act, making it necessary to give greater notice before lay-off, consultation with workers and their organisation and higher compensation to laid-off workers;

"The re-allocation of scarce foreign exchange away from big merchants to the productive sector and a cessation of the creeping devaluation of the Jamaican dollar.

"No further increase in taxes on PAYE workers, whether basic pay or allowances, since PAYE workers taxes are already too high and instead tax those who can bear it.

"Amendment to the Labour Relations and Industrial Disputes Act (LRIDA) to include explicitly the right of workers to strike.

"Stop the deregulation programme and put back the 60 items removed from the price control list back to protect the consumers.

"An immediate revision of the National Minimum Wage to protect living standards of the lowest paid workers."

SUGAR INDUSTRY, CANE FARMERS HIT GOVERNMENT PRICE SCHEDULE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Objection to the new prices offered by the Government to sugar manufacturers and cane farmers for the current crop has come from both groups.

The new prices were announced last weekend by the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick. The offers were \$440 per lb. to sugar manufacturers and \$660 per lb to cane farmers, both being increases on the former prices.

Both groups have advised the Minister that they find the prices unacceptable.

Mr. H.S. Ive, Chairman of the Sugar Manufacturing Corporation of Jamaica, said in a press release yesterday that the Corporation had advised the Minister "that the new prices announced on Friday, 16th March, 1984, for sugar and cane are totally unacceptable" had requested an urgent meeting with him.

"The rationale for this objection is that there has been an approximate 100 per cent devaluation of the Jamaican dollar while the industry had been given only a 20 per cent increase after having had no increases for the last two years," the Corporation said.

Mr. T. G. Mignott, Chairman of the All-Island Jamaica Cane Farmers Association, wrote to the Minister on Monday of this week advising that "the recently announced price of cane and sugar is inadequate to meet the farmers' cost of production" and requesting an urgent meeting with him "to negotiate a fair price."

Mr. Mignott said in a press release that he was urging the farmers "to continue delivery of their canes without any disruption."

CSO: 3298/663

STONE: SEAGA, POLICIES NOW MET WITH 'CONTEMPT, ANGER'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Mar 84 p 10

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text] 1984 is turning out to be a political nightmare for Eddie Seaga and the JLP.

If one is to judge from the hostile anti-Seaga political poetry and gossip being avidly read and circulated in business and middle class circles, the respect and deference many in these social classes had for Seaga's financial and administrative talents have disappeared in 1984, and have been replaced by contempt and anger which are becoming infectious by the day.

One such story gives an account of the Prime Minister waking in the middle of the night and complaining about being savagely bitten by "fine ants". The latter, of course, is a pun designed to highlight the Prime Minister's reputation as a financial wizard and to suggest that he has become a casualty of an acute and fatal attack of financial incompetence in his effort to manage public policy.

Most of the other stories are much too pornographic for mention here, but they have become standard items of middle class discussion all targetted on vicious attacks on Seaga's competence.

The tale of economic woes among the Jamaican middle class and business class in 1984 includes financial grief induced both by the 1984 devaluation and the tight credit restrictions as well as frustrations caused by harassment over foreign exchange and its absence. It involves also fright caused by the new legislation on illegal currency deals and the seeming confusion occasioned by Seaga's constant changing of financial policies.

War Against Business People?

The outcome of the Fettiplace trial and the multi-million dollar fine against this businessman for currency dealings is being interpreted in some business circles as a war by the Seaga government against business people who have had to hustle or break the rules set by the traffic cop to merely survive and avoid their businesses folding up.

The angered reaction to the Fettiplace trial and its outcome in some business circles has been clearly influenced by the hysteria aroused by the new legislation on currency dealings which some legal minds claim assume guilt until innocence is proven.

Now Seaga has made several mistakes. This column has not been reluctant to sharply criticise him and his policies where such criticism seems appropriate.

He understands the depth of the structural problems facing the economy and still does, in my view. He let go the levers of control when he should have tightened an austerity grip on the economy in the face of the known forecasts about the impending recession in the 1980's.

He pursued import policies that could only be sustained in the short run by massive borrowing for which we would have to pay the price in the form of an onerous addition to the already big debt burden.

His policies on structural adjustments, the opening up of the economy and de-regulation were, at best, naive though well-intentioned. Jamaica's per capita foreign exchange earnings were too low to permit any such opening up of imports. De-regulation was not likely to happen as long as the economic crisis lasted. Indeed, I predicted that he would have had to maintain and add to the regime of state control Manley left behind. This was because the role of defending the national interest in the face of foreign exchange shortages, the need to ration imports, the need for price controls and the pressures to provide policy leadership in the continuing crisis in the economy made such a trend imperative, regardless of the free enterprise philosophy he espoused in 1980 before coming to power. He clearly promised what he could not deliver.

He preached optimism and hope when a more cautious leader would have warned the country to prepare for austerity and some big blows from cost of living pressures and declining living standards.

Carried Away

He got carried away with his growth statistics and misread how far they disguised the continuing structural imbalances in the economy.

He gave too much rope to some private sector people who have ransacked the economic cupboard and are now turning around and blaming him for producing a bare cupboard.

His financial policies have confused everyone with the seemingly endless changes introduced month after month. He has consistently failed to keep the people informed about the economic realities in the country papering them over with optimistic sugar coatings.

But even if we could retrace our steps over time and Seaga could re-play his innings removing all these batting flaws, the bottom line problem of inadequate foreign exchange would not disappear. And that is the main reason for much of the unpopular austerity policies and the constant failure to find rational ways of deciding on the allocation of that scarce commodity.

That is the real root cause of all the frustration and the anger.

Now I find it most amusing that those who were saying that all the problems of the 1970's were Manley's fault are now saying the same thing about Seaga. We are now asked to believe that the country is in the mess it is in because of Seaga's policy errors.

Being Crucified

Whatever policy errors Seaga has committed, there is no basis for accepting that kind of idiocy which attributes the economic failures of a whole country to the policies of one man.

We have a national passion to worship leaders and expect miracles from them only to crucify them when no miracles happen. Our national fantasies turn "messiahs" into charlatans and financial geniuses into fools bitten by "fine ants"

Seaga is now being crucified to make way for the restoration of faith that will go in search of some new political messiah in whom to invest magical beliefs.

This country is more politically backward than most of us realise because we feed too much on each other's hysteria and fantasies.

What I find even more distressing is that those who seek to crucify the politician (be it Seaga or Manley) have not even a coherent sentence or paragraph to enlighten us as to what policies they should be pursuing to generate foreign exchange when there is so little of it to go round or to reduce the cost of living when we are not earning or producing enough to do that.

God Help Us!

To be sure a lot of sophisticated ideological "mumbo jumbo" is invariably produced in the usual impeccable prose and elegant language of the educated "illiterates" to show exactly why we all have but one man to blame for our national failings and inadequacies.

But whom are we fooling?

History is not going to be kind to us for indulging in a kind of fantasy land escapism no matter how well we disguise it with fancy phrases.

If Seaga and Manley were to be sent on a slow boat to China and some new middle class messiahs were to be found to fill their spaces, the basic structural and attitude problems that lie at the root of our inability to show real economic progress would no more disappear than the Blue Mountain would.

Will the leaders of so-called opinion in the country ever grow up?

The sad thing is that by wasting our intellectual energies in crucifying the politician we fail to make the effort to understand why the country is not moving.

The larger meaning of all of this, however, is that Seaga's authority to govern has evaporated among the business class and the country now has a government that is virtually a hostage of our passion for the political crucifixion impulse.

God help us!

CSO: 3298/662

BRIEFS

PHONE EQUIPMENT CONTRACT--A US\$6 million contract for the supply of digital equipment to the Jamaica Telephone Company was signed at the Ministry of Public Utilities and Transport yesterday. The contract has been awarded to Harris/Farion of the U.S.A. for a project to replace and boost the inter-link of a number of telephone exchanges throughout Jamaica. Work is scheduled to start in the third quarter of this year on a phased basis; and it is expected that this will be completed towards the middle of 1985. Transmission facilities required for exchanges such as Spanish Town, Chapelton, Lucea and Morant Bay, will be put in place to allow more telephone lines for these areas. In addition, the quality of toll service will be improved as well as the reliability of service and basic ground laid for data communication. Mr. James Thomas, Vice-President of International Harris Corporation, signed on behalf of his group, assisted by Dr. Douglas Morais, General Manager; while the Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, the Hon. Pearnel Charles, signed on behalf of the telephone company, assisted by Mr. Franz Botek, the Managing Director. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Mar 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/663

JONGUITUD BARRIOS CHARGED WITH PRESSURING CNTE-HEADED LOCALS IN SOUTH

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 383, 5 Mar 84 pp 30-31

[Article by Ernesto Reyes and Antolin Figueroa]

[Text] With bribes, blackmail, pressure, offers of posts, transfers, promotions, loans and other services, the Revolutionary Vanguard of Teachers, headed by the governor of San Luis Potosi, Carlos Jonguitud Barrios, began a campaign of intimidation against Locals 7 and 40 in Chiapas and Local 22 in Oaxaca of the National Trade Union of Education Workers (SNTE). The locals are led by members of the National Coordinating Board of Education Workers (CNTE).

Also in Oaxaca, owing to the lack of a response by the Secretariat of Public Education to their demands, the 38,000 teachers of SNTE Local 22 held an indefinite sit-in until noon on Friday, 2 March, in the town square of the Oaxacan capital. As a result, educational activities at all level had been paralyzed in that state since Monday, 27 February.

Pedro Martinez Noriega, the secretary general of Local 22, and Patricio Hernandez, secretary of relations, explained that their demands had been in the hands of the authorities of the SEP [Secretariat of Public Education] and the ISSSTE [Institute of Social Security and Services for Government Workers] since 20 September of last year and that they had received no response to date. Consequently, they decided to begin an indefinite work stoppage supported by a sit-in.

They added that before the stoppage and the sit-in, they had started a mobilization in stages between 20 and 24 February in order to get the SEP representative in Oaxaca, the Education Service Union for Decentralization (USEDES), to resolve their problems. Talks were held on 21, 22 and 23 February, but they broke down without reaching a solution. Then the state government intervened and it was agreed that the talks would resume on 24 February. However, the director of USEDES, Diego Tomas Garcia, did not attend because he went to Mexico City. The next day, more than 25,000 Oaxacan teachers held a march and met in the permanent state assembly, which decided to stop work indefinitely.

The demands of the Oaxacan teachers are: the establishment of posts at all educational levels and categories for more than 8,000 workers; the standardization of the salaries of 3,000 upper middle level workers; reclassification and transfer of posts at all levels; the creation of a genuine bilingual, bicultural career in teaching; the definite expulsion of the Summer Linguistic Institute; an explanation of the murders of 38 teachers over the last 5 years; the construction of classrooms in 216 indigenous communities; the creation of a normal school for the indigenous population; improvement of the economic and social services of the ISSSTE and compliance with the executive committee of the Oaxaca local.

Oaxacan union leaders traveled to Mexico City to have interviews with SEP officials and to obtain a response to their demands. However, at press time the negotiations were still under way.

Martinez Noriega and Hernandez, furthermore, accused members of the Revolutionary Vanguard of starting a campaign of intimidation against Local 22, whose leadership was won democratically by the National Coordinating Board of Education Workers (CNTE).

They started that last 24 October about 200 members of the Vanguard took over the union buildings in the city of Oaxaca, but that they had to withdraw 2 days later. They also accused that group of holding a meeting on 5 November in Temazcal, Oaxaca, which was attended by some 1,500 teachers, "most of whom were from Veracruz," to name a local committee parallel to the legally established one. They said that the parallel committee "has been traveling around the state offering transfers, promotions, loans, cars and the construction of supply centers, among other things."

Meanwhile in Chiapas, Manuel Hernandez Gomez, the secretary general of Local 7, denounced a campaign by members of the Revolutionary Vanguard similar to the one in Oaxaca.

The Vanguard campaign has the same elements as in Oaxaca, says the education leader from Chiapas. They are offering short-term mortgage loans, cash, preferential medical care in the ISSSTE, transfers, promotions, immediate processing of individual problems and publicity campaigns through the mass media which aim at confusing the rank and file teachers.

"The campaign," added Hernandez Gomez, "is intended to create a climate of uneasiness and social anxiety in Chiapas in order to justify to the public and the government the boycott of the state teachers' congress which will take place on 8 and 9 March."

He also asserted that the campaign is being coordinated by the national executive committee of the SNTE with a view to destroying the democratic process of the teachers of Chiapas, which on 25 February mobilized 45,000 people among the teachers, workers and parents.

During that march, the teachers of Chiapas demanded a 100 percent emergency wage hike; compliance with the democratic processes in education that are conducted mainly in Locals 7 and 40 of Chiapas, 22 of Oaxaca, 19 of Morelos, 23 of Guanajuato and 2 in the Federal District; derogation of paragraph B of Constitutional Article 123; a solution to the demands of the students of the Higher Normal School and information about the decentralization of education and worker participation in that process.

12351

CSO: 3248/514

HONEYWELL PLANS BUILDING DPS6 COMPUTERS IN CHIHUAHUA

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 9 Mar 84 p 9-A

[Text] Recently Honeywell Information Systems, Inc. of C.V. presented its new line of DPS6 micro, mini and superminicomputers at the United States Trade Center. In addition, engineer Enrique Perez R. reported that in 1984 manufacturing will begin in Mexico of one of the models of the aforementioned family, the Microsystem 6/10. The manufacturing plans are very ambitious, since about 70 percent of production will be exported to the United States and various parts of the world.

The factory will be located in the state of Chihuahua, where Honeywell already has an ample manufacturing infrastructure.

The new Honeywell DPS6 family is powerful, totally compatible and flexible enough to meet the needs of a wide variety of users. With six models, the DPS6 family provides exceptional features and an impressive capacity for expansion.

This versatility comes from the already well-known GCOS6 Operating System, which makes possible data base generation and access, office automation, the generation of reports and the development of programs with great ease owing to its user-friendly, menu-based design. Combining the hardware with features of the software, the PDS6 family is suitable for work in a multi-station processing environment, including communications with Honeywell equipment as well as that manufactured by other suppliers.

From the smallest program to the most complex communications network, including data bases and any of the applications developed in the smallest equipment of the Microsystem 6/10 family, they can run on the 32-bit DPS6/95 Superminicomputer without any modifications. It is not necessary to create new applications or retain operators when the system grows or expands, which means a significant savings in time and costs in the growth process.

No other series of computers provides as many benefits in regard to the compatibility and flexibility of the hardware and software as the new Honeywell DPS6 family.

BRIEFS

MISSING PERSONS IN AYACUCHO--Ayacucho District Attorney (Benjamin Madeno) has announced that 600 persons have been officially reported missing in that strife-torn Andean department. (Maden) said at a news conference in Lima that during his stay in Ayacucho, from where he arrived yesterday, he identified 27 bodies out of 40 that were found in the town of Sachabamba, Cangayo Province. Politicians and congressmen have charged that more than 1,500 persons have disappeared in Ayacucho since the state of emergency was declared in that region in 1981. [Text] [PA161757 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 84]

SENDERISTS KILL SOLDIERS, CIVILIAN--In acts attributed to the armed group Shining Path, five soldiers have been killed in the city of Ayacucho, Peru, which was left without electricity last night when several electrical stations of the (Electroluz) firm were blown up. Before the electricity went off, several loud dynamite explosions were heard in different parts of Ayacucho. The press reports that persons presumed to be members of the Shining Path killed a lieutenant and four soldiers in an ambush at a Civil Guard checkpoint in the (Quinapata) neighborhood in west Ayacucho. It was also reported that one civilian had been killed and two marines wounded in an attack attributed to the Shining Path in San Miguel, located 80 kilometers from the Peruvian city of Ayacucho. [Text] [FL120058 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1929 GMT 11 Apr 84]

CSO: 3348/371

LABOUR LEADER MOORE CRITICIZES CITIZENSHIP ACT

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 25 & 29 Feb 84

[25 Feb 84 pp 6-7]

[Text]

WE PUBLISH BELOW THE FIRST INSTALMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, HON. LEE L. MOORE, IN THE DEBATE ON THE ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS CITIZENSHIP ACT, 1984, IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 1984.

Mr Speaker, we think it our duty in the circumstances of the vote just taken to continue to deal with this matter for the benefit of the public.

But Mr Speaker, we have warned often in the past and we warn again. You sow the wind and you'll reap the whirlwind.

This matter I repeat is a profoundly serious and important matter and it is being enterprised and taken in hand very lightly and very unadvisedly and therefore Mr. Speaker we must never be surprised when, in some famous words, "Chickens begin to come home to roost."

OFFENSIVE PROVISIONS

There are a number of offensive provisions in this Bill, Mr. Speaker. They are offensive to the Constitution they are offensive to good order in any country, and they are offensive to morality.

Mr. Speaker, I omit consideration of the definition section, and I come to the substantive provisions of the law.

It really doesn't matter how much the Prime Minister underplays section 3 subsection 5, however much he thinks he can just get away with it by talking about it as novel.

Hear how it is novel Mr. Speaker. They grant you landed status in the United States of America; they grant you landed Status in Canada, but some how landed Status is not good enough here..

SELLING OUR CITIZENSHIP

You can get Citizenship if you pay for it and if you make a substantial investment.

Mr. Speaker, whatever euphemisms you use, that is the sale, the trading of the birthright of the people of this country. I have always been against that, and will remain against it to my dying day. Scripture enjoins me not to trade my birthright for a mess of pottage.

I don't care what the investment is. Whether it runs into millions of dollars or not it is still a mesh of pottage. Trading the birthright of the people of this country on the payment of a prescribed fee.

The Prime Minister says it will be "substantial" How substantial? How much?

The citizenship of the country is to be traded in the market place as if it were bread or corn. The Prime Minister says for a "substantial amount" The people of this country are not entitled to know how much is this substantial amount? It is their citizenship. It is their attribute that the government wants to go and sell, as if it were a tray of fish or something. A pound of flour.....

Mr. Speaker, it is Citizenship the intimate union as I've said which a man has with his country, which entitles him to say that country belongs to me and I belong to that country.

That is what the government wants to sell for a fee if Cabinet is satisfied that he has invested substantially. Invested in what? Invested how much? What is substantial Investment? Who decides it? The Cabinet? On what basis? It's not said.

How is this investment going to be done? All of these are very important questions.

But on the Prime Minister's own words, in the

United States of America they give you Landed immigrant status, in Canada they give you landed immigrant status. Not the Citizenship of Canada, not the Citizenship of the United States of America. Landed Status.

So Mr. Speaker right now the government has the authority, right now, to grant permanent residence to people and at a fee. And they have been doing so. So what is the difficulty? Why is that not good enough? Why now, because some man has some money, somewhere, he comes into St. Kitts and he just like me. It ain't make no sense now that I born here, and that I have been contributing here all my life. Because some man makes some millions of dollars some where now he walks in here and he just like me,

Only one difference the government wants to say. He can't vote, but in all other respects he just like me in St. Kitts.

He is just like the people in St. Pauls and the people in Saddlers and the people up New Town because he brings some money. That's how people want their country? Well, Mr. Speaker, that is not a simple matter, you know, that's not any simple matter at all. Because if you look at the Constitution now you look at what the Constitution says about people who are Citizens or who can become citizens. Every person who having been born in St. Christopher and Nevis and was immediately before that date a British Citizen of British Dependant Territories Citizen.

PERSONAL CONNECTING FACTORS

Birth, Birthright: every person who having been born outside St. Christopher and Nevis and was immediately before that date a British Citizen of a British Dependent Territory Citizen by virtue of registration or naturalisation in St. Christopher and Nevis.

So they here long time and they applied either to be registered or to be naturalised. They connected to the country. Every other person who was immediately before that date a British Citizen or British Dependent Territory Citizen and either of whose parents becomes or but for death or renunciation of citizenship would have become a citizen of St. Christopher and Nevis either because they were born here or because they had established citizenship by registration or naturalisation, connected through their parents. Fatherland:

Every person who was immediately before that date a British Citizen or a British Dependent Territory Citizen and who is or has been married to a person who becomes or but for death or renunciation would have become a citizen.

Marriage, recognised all over the world because there is an act of acceptance. It is the old Biblical words, "Where you go, I go; where you die, I die: your people, my people..." That is it. And these are the connecting factors here in Section 90. Always you will find that there is some personal connecting factor with the country. The act of birth or the act of acceptance of the country by some personal contact.

And then Section 91 if you were born after Independence Day, birth makes you a Citizen. And Section 92 says who can be registered, entitled to be registered. And how does it begin, Mr. Speaker: A person who is married to a Citizen and it goes on with residence ordinarily resident and so on. Those are the connecting factors. But now, Section 3(5) of this law. Because three (5) is a residual class in Section 92 Section 3(5) says those other persons are citizens by virtue of money.

MONEY IS FALSE QUALIFICATION

Money! And not any money to do with here. They have money somewhere. nobody says they have to come here, 3(5) doesn't say that you know. 3(5) doesn't say the man has to come here at all. It doesn't say he has to live here for any period. All he has to do is apply, pay a fee and make a substantial investment. And stay in Greece if he wants. And stay in Taiwan, if he wants, and stay in Hong Kong if he wants.

Let the Honourable Attorney say, is there a clause like 3(5) in Antigua,

Is there a clause like 3(5) in St. Lucia? Is there a clause like 3(5) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines or Dominica? - he mentioned all of those.

If they do not have it in let him have the honesty and the courage to say to this country: No there is no such clause in the legislation of those countries. And let the country know with honesty that we are embarking upon new territory. And let the country judge it in that context.

But don't just pull wool over their eyes - just like Antigua, it's just like Dominica and St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, very much like them, for the most part like them; it is 3(5) that we are concerned about - that is offensive. It is offensive to every principle known to civilised man. Sure we can always spare room in our country for the stranger within our gates. Certain-

ly we can offer the benefit of the flag to those who need it. And there are people who genuinely sometimes need the benefit of a flag - people who are stateless, people who are refugees - fleeing from other countries where they cannot live in peace and harmony.

Those people sometimes need the benefit and protection of a flag; those Mr. Speaker, who come and willingly adopt our country, make its fortunes their fortunes (and I'm not talking about money fortunes), Mr. Speaker,

Make its fortunes their fortunes; its faith their faith, when it rises, they rise and soar with it, when it sinks they are there to sink with it. It is those upon whom we bestow the benefit of the protection of our flag, not a man who has money. because he has money.

Citizenship of St. Kitts and Nevis has become now or will become something after which you throw a little money just as a gambler throws dice in a callous action because he doesn't care about the result.

A man in Hong Kong gets a citizenship of St. Kitts - Nevis because he paid \$25,000 U.S. for it and he made an investment of \$100,000 U.S. in the country but he doesn't care. These men are here selling the birthright of the people in the market place, can't repeat that word too often, Mr. Speaker, because that's what it is. It's consumerism gone mad with regard to the birthright of the people of the country. Sure there were people who born here and have become very worthy citizens of other countries.

WORTHY CITIZENS

Certainly Mr. Speaker, they have become worthy citizens of Canada, I know some myself, worthy citizens of the United States of America. Citizens, Mr. Speaker. How did they do it? By taking some money out of their pockets or writing a cheque for it? No, never in a thousand years Mr. Speaker. They swore allegiance to the country, adopted it, made its fortunes their fortunes, its faith their faith and they sing like everyone else 'America Land of the free', 'The home of the brave,' because it's in that sense they have tied their destinies to the destiny of the country. But this is not what is called for here, all that is required here is for some man some where with money to write a cheque, sign an application, make an investment in the country and pay a fee, and then he becomes a citizen of the country.

SHAME ON GOVERNMENT

That is offensive. And Mr. Speaker, it should offend every worthy citizen of this land. And the government should be ashamed to put it here whatever is the urgency of their thrust. Whatever is the urgency for their thrust for development. And all of us have the same interest in development, But there are some things that do not sell, you know. One doesn't sell one's soul and this in tantamount to selling one's soul. So Mr. Speaker I say to you that Sub - Section 5 of Section 3 is very offensive.

Now Mr. Speaker for the rest , what is troublesome about this Bill is this. Let us look at 94 Mr. Speaker. Section 94 of the Constitution: There shall be such provisions as may be made by parliament for the naturalization as citizens of persons who are entitled to become citizens, for the renunciation by any person of his citizenship, for the certification of citizenship and for depriving of his citizenship any person. Parliament.

PARLIAMENT GIVES AWAY ITS POWERS TO MINISTER

This law as it were once and for all takes the power away from parliament and invests it in a Minister. Citizenship, a very public thing and it is taken away from parliament. So once we've done with it today, no time at all to consider it, but once we've done with it today everything now is a private say so of a Minister.

Parliament is giving away the powers to the Minister. The Constitution saw that the matter was a matter for parliament, that's what the Constitution says. But now parliament is being asked yes, it's a matter for you, we are asking you to deal with it, deal with it in this way, give it to the Minister, No recourse.

The Minister is given an unfettered discretion. In his discretion to give, in his discretion to refuse, in his discretion to certify, in his discretion to annul, in his discretion, to withdraw. If he is going to revoke naturalization he may set up a committee and he may tell you of the setting up of the community and he may tell you you have a right of legal representation before the committee.

He may do all of that, the word Mr. Speaker you will note is "may", may do all of that, perhaps if he doesn't feel like it he may not do it either. that is the point.

And look at what it says in Section 12, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister may in such cases as he thinks fit on

application made by or on behalf of any person with respect to whose citizenship of St. Christopher and Nevis a doubt exists whether or a question of fact or law certify that such person is a citizen of St. Christopher and Nevis.

The Minister himself may not know a thing about the law but when any doubt exists on any question of fact or law the Minister may make a certificate and then 13 says, a certificate unless it is proved to have been obtained by fraud, misrepresentation etc etc. will be conclusive evidence.

So a Minister who conceivably does not understand any thing about the law, makes a certification on a question of law and if you can't prove fraud that is conclusive. And 13 continues: The Minister shall not be required to assign any reason.

COURT EXCLUDED

I do it. That's that. And the Minister is not required to assign any reason for the grant or refusal of any application under this Act. The decision of which is at the discretion of the Minister on any such application shall not be subject to any appeal or review in any Court

Mr. Speaker, what is this? We don't want any legal system any more. We don't want any Rule of Law any more? So we don't want any review of a Minister's say so? What is it we are establishing here? This is the thin edge you know, Mr. Speaker we are setting out on a very dangerous course here.

A minister, perhaps, not qualified in Law, makes a determination on a matter of law. That determination is conclusive and no review, no judicial review, not subject to any review or any appeal. You can't even go from the Minister to the Cabinet. Not subject to any appeal not subject to any review or appeal in any court. Mr Speaker, that's a very serious matter, Because Mr. Speaker, you mean you go to the trouble of saying to the person, and remember, you know, Mr. Speaker, these provisions here do not relate to the people who got citizenship under 3(5) alone, you know. If it were they it would not matter. They are the ones to whom the government wishes cavalierly to give the citizenship on the payment of a few dollars. Well if you want to say we give or we don't give to those and they can't ask anybody about it. Well that all right Mr. Speaker, I suppose, because I don't agree with granting them any in the first place.

So if you don't wish to grant them or you wish to take it back from them, and you don't wish them to have any right of appeal that does not matter one way or the other.

But Mr. Speaker you see, look and see Mr. Speaker all of the people who can get citizenship by registration.

The following persons shall if they do not already possess citizenship be entitled upon making application to be registered as citizens - any person who is married to a citizen.

[29 Feb 84 pp 4-5]

[Text] If she or he wasn't married on 19th September 1983 and therefore did not automatically become a citizen; if the marriage takes place afterwards the citizenship of that person is based on registration, registration after application.

And that is one of the persons whose application the Minister can refuse without giving a reason.

So look at the situation it offended morality. A woman leaves wherever she leaves and comes and adopts this country by marrying a man of this country, she makes an application, the Minister in his discretion and without assigning any reason refuses her application.

She has no appeal, but she belongs here by taking the country because she took the man of the country. But that same Minister who is turning down her application without giving a reason is willy milly granting citizenship to Hong Kong businessmen because they have lots of money.

That's the point, that's why I say it's offensive to morality. That's immoral, has to be. Mr. Speaker, but then now you see, registration ordinarily, not under 3(5), upon residence - 14 years of residence, other than under 3(5).

But a man under 3(5) if he is willing to pay, perhaps I don't know, the government did not say yet, but perhaps \$25,000 U.S. as the fee, and invests, perhaps, \$100,000 US but remains in Hong Kong or Taiwan or Greece, or England or Canada or where ever the Prime Minister wants me to say that man doesn't have to be here one day to get the citizenship, not one day.

But a man who came nine years and six months, brought his money, may be \$200,000 at that time, has possibly turned it around so that investment is now worth well over \$2 million, not he you know, he had another 4 years and 6 months to wait.

That's immoral, has to be, it has to be, Registration of any person who is here like that depends upon 14 years of residence. Well alright, I see what the government wants to say, they want to say, don't let him wait 14 years, he could try like the Hong Kong businessman too. That's what they want to say.

Well Mr Speaker, look at the position then: So may be the one who has a large investment doesn't have to wait on the 14 years. It doesn't say so but the government is now saying that he could buy his way out too. Take their word for it.

Well what about the person who has been living and working here and making a contribution. He ain't make no lot of money, so he can't buy his way out. But he has been here 12 years with the blessing of the country making a contribution to the country. No, he has to wait the extra two year. but he can't buy his way out.

But the Hong Kong Business-man.. (no Hong Kong complex I only using Hong Kong because the advertisements done appear in the Hong Kong newspaper already. That's why I using Hong Kong, that's the reason why I'm using Hong Kong the advertisements have appeared before parliament debated the law. The advertisements done appear in the Hong Kong newspaper already. That's why I'm using Hong Kong)

And so Mr Speaker, that is the real problem you are having here. This thing is offensive, it's offensive to good order and offensive to morality.

Take the question, Mr. Speaker of the Minister's discretion that he doesn't have to give any reasons for it all. Well on what basis will he exercise that discretion. Now I know Mr Speaker that it is said that he has to exercise on the ground of public order, public safety, defence and other matters like that. I know that.

But you see it is a general discretion and it says in 13 "no reason need be assigned". And the Learned Attorney says, "Well there may be reasons of security."

So there may be, but suppose one is not involved in any reasons of security. Suppose one is not involved in any action prejudicial to security.

Why can a reason not be given. Because you see, Mr. Speaker, there are some interesting provisions in here you know. Subject to section 10 of this Act; the Minister may in his discretion by order, deprive of his citizenship any

citizen of St. Christopher and Nevis who is such by naturalization.

If he was tried and convicted in a court. But now listen Mr. Speaker, or (c) "if he has shown himself by act or speech to be disloyal or disaffected towards St. Christopher and Nevis. Nice general principle. The general principle as such appears in every law but you see, what does that mean, to show yourself, bearing in mind that is the Minister who is exercising an unfettered discretion for which he need not assign any reason.

What does it mean to show yourself disloyal or disaffected towards St. Christopher and Nevis? What speech it is you have to make in order to show that?

You mean if a man has applied for naturalization and is living here and doing all the duties of a citizen here and taking a full part in the country, if he gets up and criticize the government that will be disloyal or disaffected?

It oughtn't to be, but because the Minister in his sole unfettered discretion which is not open to appeal or review and for which he need not give any reason may decide that, it might be.

That is what is problematical, that is why the law is offensive? Because there are provisions like that. There are other things that we can understand, but we can't understand things like that, "if you have been engaged in activities, whether within or outside of St. Christopher and Nevis which in the opinion of the Minister are prejudicial to the safety of St. Christopher and Nevis or to the maintenance of law and public order in St. Christopher Nevis."

What is that? What you have to do? You mean a citizen by naturalization who goes away to Canada to study and sits in a computer department may be engaged in an activity outside of St. Christopher which in the opinion of the Minister is prejudicial to the safety of St. Christopher or to the maintenance of law and public order in St. Christopher and Nevis.

What is it you have to do to satisfy this? How is anybody going to know when he has done something to satisfy this? And then somebody in Canada writes home a report to the Minister and says well you have to do something about this lad. And the Minister says "well in my sole unfettered discretion for which I have to give no reason

and in respect of which there can be no review or appeal, I take away his citizenship now."

Mr. Speaker dangerous legislation You see, what it is that you have to do with those things there and then Mr. Speaker I turn over the page here "any person", 16(1) "who for the purpose of procuring anything to be done or not to be done under this act, or under Chapter 8 of the Constitution makes any statement which he knows to be false in a material particular or recklessly makes the statement and the statement is false, he is guilty of an offence and liable, etc. etc."

What is it you were trying to procure to be done, or not to be done? You mean if a citizen of this country continues the struggles because he doesn't want outsiders to be able to buy citizenship of this country, and if in the course of that struggle he says something and it is adjudged that he said it recklessly and it is false, you mean he must go to jail for that.

To try to talk about the citizenship of his country Mr. Speaker, this is a dangerous piece of legislation is when we tried to get consideration of it deferred wasn't because we didn't know it. Wasn't because we hadn't studied it, but it was because we wanted sober reflection to take place on the part of the government and it is because we wanted the public to become ofay with the provisions of this law because there are very serious implications in this law. And that is why Mr. Speaker we are asking to defer it. The House has voted and that is why in the context of the House having voted we are making the contribution that we are doing today. Because Mr. Speaker we feel that the government should take this legislation back and think about it again.

What the government has done, because you see Section 3(5), is what we've been saying was going to happen all along, you know.

No wonder the Hon. Prime Minister said this morning from what has already happened before and from what happened today, referring of course to the Labour Spokesman, he knows that the matter is going to be hotly debated

Well yes, for months now we've been saying that the government is selling passports.

Is for months we've been saying so. And if they are not selling them, that they proposing to sell them. And

the government never said a word, well look the answer here now.

Now we know it is true, because you only say without the rights to vote, you know, without the right to vote, so if that is all you exclude your lawyer friends will tell you "expressio Unius, Exclusio alterius".

If all you have excluded is the right to vote they get all other rights, including the right to get and carry passports. so here it is, that's what we've been saying all along on which the government has maintained a deafening silence until today.

And they come with it today now and they hide it up within the provisions of 18 other sections of the law, so the Learned Attorney comes and he says, "Well the provisions like this all over, Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, provisions like this all over-"

3(5): 3(5). Is that all over, and even Mr. Speaker if it were all over we would still be against it.

If other people want to trade their birthright, and I am persuaded they don't, but even if other people wanted to trade their birthright, we would wish Mr. Speaker not to trade ours for a mess of pottage, that is what this government is proposing for the people of this country.

CSO: 3298/664

LABOUR SAYS PAM SELLS OUT TO INTERNATIONAL CRIME ELEMENTS

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 25 Feb 84 p 4

[Text]

Four years of coalition government in St. Kitts by the Peoples Action Movement (PAM) of St. Kitts and the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) of Nevis has turned this Caribbean island into a dangerous place.

Human life is no longer sacred or property safe on the island.

The coalition government has systematically parcelled the island out among local and foreign gangsters, international racketeers and transnational swindlers.

There have been unsolved cases of murder, arson, rape and robbery. The local police is no match for the sophisticated crime syndicates, swarming into the island like vultures on carrion.

The underworld enterprises in prostitution, drug trafficking, gun-running and gambling carry with them the ever-present risk of death, disappearance, disfigurement and property destruction as rival gangs on the island compete for larger shares of the booty.

A REFUGE FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIMINALS -

Fugitive criminals and their local agents have received a bonanza from the PAM/NRP coalition government. The government has passed a law in the teeth of fierce resistance by the Opposition to enable it to sell St-Kitts citizenship on the international market.

Section 3(5) of the St. Christopher and Nevis Citizenship Act, 1984, provides that ".... a person is entitled, upon making application under this subsection to the Minister in the prescribed manner and upon payment of any fee that may be prescribed, to be registered as a citizen of St. Christopher and Nevis ----- if the Cabinet is satisfied that such person has invested substantially in St. Christopher and Nevis."

The Bill was kept a tight secret from the local population and the Opposition, and was rushed through all its stages in a sitting of the National Assembly on 22nd February 1984.

CORRUPTION UNLIMITED

It is widely rumoured that in line with current corrupt practices foreigners buying St Kitts (St. Christopher) citizenship will have to pay very substantial commissions to local politicians and their legal associates in addition to the official price charged for the citizenship, and that both commission and price will vary according to the wealth and criminal predicament of the applicant.

Local coalition politicians and lawyers favoured by the government expect to make personal fortunes out of the citizenship racket.

There is a snag, though. If any buyer of St. Kitts citizenship fails or refuses to meet blackmail demands for future additional payments to his sponsors, the Minister has discretionary powers under section 8 of the Act to deprive him of his citizenship without refund of fees (or commissions, of course). His investment may also be confiscated and he does not have any appeal to the Court. Caveat emptor!

The coalition government on the island is holding a naked flame in one hand and with the other hand is placing sticks of confrontational dynamite under the barrel of political gunpowder on which the island is dangerously perched.

COURT FINDS GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF NATIONAL BANK ILLEGAL

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 3 Mar 84 p 1

[Text]

The Judgements of the High Court and of the Court of Appeal in the National Bank cases are now in full force and effect.

On 4 May 1982 the High Court ruled that the take-over of National Bank Ltd. and its subsidiary companies by the Simmonds government was unlawful and that the St. Kitts Nevis Anguilla National Bank Ltd. (Special Provisions) Act 1982, passed for the purpose of the take-over, was unconstitutional, null, void and of no effect.

The government appealed that decision to the Court of Appeal. On 1 March 1983 the Court of Appeal dismissed the Appeal and confirmed that the take-over of the Bank was unlawful and that the 1982 Act was unconstitutional, null, void and of no effect.

The Judgement of the two Courts mean:-

- (1) that the dismissal of the Managing Directors and other Directors under the 1982 Act was null, void, and of no effect.
- (2) that the appointment of new Directors under the 1982 Act was null, void and of no effect.
- (3) that all actions taken by the new Board of Directors were null, void and of no effect.

The Judgements mean that Mr. Edmund W. Lawrence continued as Managing Director and Chairman of the Board of Directors, in spite of his physical removal by the Simmonds government.

When the Court of Appeal delivered its Judgement on 1 March 1983, the government requested and obtained a stay of execution of the Judgement with the next sitting of the Court (due to be held in September 1984) on the grounds that they wanted to take the matter to the Privy Council in England.

On Wednesday afternoon this week, at 3:30 o'clock, papers were served on Mr. Fitzroy Bryant, Solicitor for Mr. Edmund Lawrence, indicating that an application would be made to the Court of Appeal the next morning at 9 o'clock seeking a further stay of execution.

The main reason given in the Affidavit to support the application was that "Leading Counsel for the Appellant, Dr. W.V. Herbert, has since that time been elevated to ambassadorial rank and is not at this time practising before this Honourable Court."

The application was made in open court on Thursday morning by the Attorney-General, Mr. Tapley Seaton, who had sworn the Affidavit referred to above. Mr. Lee Moore and Mr. Fitzroy Bryant represented Mr. Lawrence.

Mr. Moore vigorously objected to the application. The grounds for his objection will be published in full in next Wednesday's issue of this newspaper.

The decision of the Court of Appeal was delivered by Acting Chief Justice, Mr. Neville Berridge. The rest of the Court was Mr. Justice Lascelles Robottom and Mr. Justice Eric Bishop.

The Ag. Chief Justice pointed out that one full year had passed since the Judgement of the Court of Appeal was given.

The Rules governing appeals to the Privy Council give a time limit of 21 days after the Judgement of the Court of Appeal for appeals to the Privy Council to be commenced. The period of 21 days had passed and no appeal to the Privy Council had been started.

(Indeed, the Simmonds government had done nothing about an appeal to the Privy Council for 365 days - a full year!)

The Ag. Chief Justice said that the Court of Appeal could not consider the application and the application for a further stay of execution was denied.

The Court ruled that the government should pay Mr. Lawrence's costs of the application to be taxed and certified fit for two Counsel.

LABOUR CONTINUES BARRAGE AGAINST ELECTION REGULATIONS

Report on Meeting with Government

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 25 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Yesterday morning, an important meeting was held at the Cabinet Chambers, Government Headquarters, Basseterre, at about 10 o'clock and lasted for nearly 2 hours.

It was attended by Hon. Dr. Kennedy Simmonds (Prime Minister), Hon. Simeon Daniel (Minister of Finance), Hon. Tapley Seaton (Attorney - General) and Mr. Uthral Swanston (Nominated Member), representing the PAM/NRP coalition government in the National Assembly, and by Hon. Lee Moore (Leader of the Opposition), Hon. E. St. John Payne, Hon. Charles Mills and Ms. Eugenie Byron, representing the Opposition in the National Assembly.

Hon Michael Powell (Deputy Prime Minister) flitted into the meeting for a few minutes.

The meeting was held at the request of the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Lee L Moore to consider the Draft Election Registration Regulations prepared by the government for the purpose of bringing a system of continuous voter registration into effect.

Last year, on Tuesday 1 November, the House of Assembly Elections Ordinance (Amendment) Act 1983 was passed by the House of Assembly.

It made certain changes in the electoral laws of St. Kitts-Nevis, including provisions for the introduction of a system of continuous voter registration. The government agreed to send the Draft Regulations to implement the system to the Opposition before the Regulations were in fact made.

On Monday 30 January 1984 the Draft Regulations were sent to Mr. Moore by the Attorney General.

Mr. Moore submitted a 12-page Memorandum on Tuesday 14 February with detailed comments and recommendations on the Draft Regulations. He requested a meeting with the government to discuss certain very important problem areas in the Draft Regulations.

Yesterday's meeting considered the comments and recommendations in the Memorandum. The government accepted several of the recommendations and agreed to give further study to certain recommendations.

Call for Change

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 10 Mar 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] In a letter sent to the Attorney-General yesterday afternoon, the Hon. Lee L. Moore, J.P., Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, called on the Simmonds government to make certain changes in the Draft Election Registration Regulations which the government is proposing to make any time now.

These Regulations will provide the rules and regulations for the registration of voters under the system of continuous voter registration which the National Assembly debated on Tuesday 1 November 1983.

Last November, the Simmonds government introduced a Bill into the National Assembly to make changes in the electoral laws of St. Kitts-Nevis.

The Bill was very offensive. It proposed, for example, that persons living in Europe, Canada, the U.S.A. and other distant countries should have the right to vote in elections in St. Kitts Nevis and without even having to come to St. Kitts-Nevis to do so.

There was huge public outcry against the Bill and the Labour Members of the National Assembly strongly condemned it. In the end, some changes were made in the Bill before it was passed by the Assembly.

The government promised that the Draft Regulations to bring the new system into effect would be sent to the Opposition for their comments before the Regulations were made. On Monday 30 January three (3) months later, Mr. Moore received the Draft Regulations from the Attorney-General but the law passed in November could not be obtained at Government Headquarters until early February.

On Tuesday 14 February the Opposition Members of the National Assembly submitted to the government a 12-page Memorandum containing comments and recommendations on the Draft Regulations.

At the request of Mr. Moore, a meeting between government and Opposition Members of the Assembly was held on Friday 24 February to consider the Opposition's Memorandum. Some of the recommendations were accepted and the government agreed to give further consideration to some others.

Last Monday (5th March) Mr. Moore wrote to the Attorney-General to enquire about the Regulations.

On Thursday of this week (8 March) the Attorney-General replied to Mr. Moore, saying that "the Government is unable to accept the proposed modifications and accordingly will retain the original provisions". In other words, the government was rejecting the recommendations made by the Opposition and sticking to its first proposals.

In yesterday's letter Mr. Moore identified four (4) areas of serious concern to the Opposition:-

(1) The definition of "ordinary residence" and "domicile" in Regulations 5 and 6 which the Opposition described as unnecessary and very loose. Both the Constitution and the National Assembly Elections Act do not seek to define "residence" and "domicile", leaving their interpretation to the Courts. For the first time ever, the Simmonds government was trying to put a special meaning on these two important legal principles.

(2) The government wants to allow the Supervisor of Elections to add names to the list of voters and remove names from the list of voters in secret and without having to publish a list of the names added or removed.

(3) The government wants the Supervisor of Elections to have the power to leave on the list the names of persons objected to and the power to add the names of claimants on the list even if the persons objected to and the claimants do not appear in person. This would allow the names of dead persons and non-existent persons to remain on the list and would also allow one person to register in several different names.

(4) the Regulations related to identity, age, citizenship, domicile and residence are loose and create openings for fraud, impersonation, etc.

The Opposition Members urged the government to change the Draft Regulations to straighten out the matters listed above.

Bryant on PAM Problems

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 10 Mar 84 p 11

[Article by Fitzroy Bryant]

[Excerpts] The next General Elections in St. Kitts-Nevis are just around the corner. Writing in this column on Friday 30 December 1983, I predicted that elections would be held "in early 1984" and I warned Kittitians not to be surprised by anything at all said or done by F.E.J. and his gang.

(By the way, F.E.J. means FIRST EVER JACKASS and it is a name which refers to one person and one person only: Kennedy Alphonse Simmonds, formerly known as "the Columbus Clown". Please do me a favour and don't call anybody else but Simmonds "F.E.J." He was worked very hard for that honour and he deserves to have it, himself alone. Thank you.)

F.E.J. has a bad problem. None of his tricks and promises has impressed the voters of St. Kitts and things are going from bad to worse for PAM:

*The goat water payment didn't win him even one vote because the money was small and the sugar workers and the waterfront workers who received some money saw plainly that he didn't really want to give them the money and that he was trying to use it as a bribe to get the 1984 sugar crop started.

*The 1984 crop is not going well at all. We haven't reached to Easter yet and the sugar factory has started to run out of cane every week.

*Civil servants, pensioners and non-establishment workers are getting more and more fed up. Ministers like the Hedgehog and Morris are pompously pushing them around and publicly abusing them and they can't hear one word about the salaries increase which they should have received in January 1984. They can see the Ministers and their cronies milking the taxpayers out of their money, grabbing government property and enriching themselves with the foreign dollars passing under the table, while they are expected to suck salt and shut up.

Things Going From Bad To Worse

Things are going from bad to worse for PAM and F.E.J. Simmonds is being hounded by Roy Jones, Hugh Heyliger and Consie Mitcham to call the elections, but he is a frightened man because he knows that, the way things are going, PAM cannot win even one seat in St. Kitts at this time.

So what to do? If he holds the elections in March, is plenty licks for PAM. But next month will be worse and May will be worse still. And, of course, he can't wait till the Dull Season when the hotels are empty and sugar workers are getting 1 day's work and 0 day's work. So what to do?

Some of the leaders of PAM, including Powell, Caines and Simmonds himself, strongly believe they should wait until February 1985 to hold the General Elections!

Why? Because they realize that the people of St. Kitts won't be giving any of them a second chance and that the people are anxiously waiting for the next elections to boot them out of office.

They want to "enjoy" their full 5 years in office to make as much money as they can, turn 'way as many Labour people as they can, push around sugar workers and public servants for as long as they can, and then take off for New Orleans, or Bermuda, or Colombia, or wherever, to try and hide out.

But Hugh Heyliger and Roy Jones and Consie want a piece of the action. Heyliger wants to be Prime Minister, Roy Jones wants to be Minister of Finance, Consie wants to be the Minister of Money-making. They and the new-boys like Sweeney and Francis don't want to wait. Before the money done, they want theirs. So they putting pressure on F.E.J.

Everything taken into consideration, the millionaire Ministers will lose out and the General Elections will be called soon, very soon. By June 1984.

For 4 years, the electorate in East Basseterre, Central Basseterre, and Cayon/St. Peters have seen and heard very little of Michael Powell, Kennedy Simmonds and Sidney Morris, except on ZIZ radio and t.v. But they will be seeing a lot more of them these days. Because General Elections are near, very near.

Now is the time when Powell will be trying to find out what sporting facilities the young people of New Town want; when Simmonds will haunt the Garden and Dorset Park and Westbourne Ghaut trying to say "hello" to the young people and promising them endless jobs; when Morris will stop driving by with his car window up and try to do a little walking to ask the young people their names and where they are working.

4 Years Too Late

But it is 4 years too late. This corrupt government is so unpopular in St. Kitts that you can feel it in the air and see it in the faces around you.

Simmonds, Powell and the rest of the wicked gang know it too. That is why they want to give the vote to Koreans, Taiwanese and Hong Kongese. After all, there are more than 50 million Chinese living in South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong, while there are only 36,000 of us living in St. Kitts.

You see, the sell-out of St. Kitts land and St. Kitts passports isn't only to give the government some dollars and to make the Ministers rich from their commissions. It is also to drown out the voting power of the people living in St. Kitts who don't have any use for PAM at all.

CSO: 3298/664

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HEAD PREDICTS GOOD INVESTMENT YEAR

Castries THE VOICE in English 28 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] GENERAL MANAGER of the National Development Corporation (NDC) has predicted that 1984 will be "a very good year" for St. Lucia in the area of investment both foreign and local.

He said that this was due to the great degree of activity resulting from the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), and interest from investors in the Far East, the United States and Canada.

"People are interested in setting up business in many areas of industry here. Both foreign and local investors."

He said that the feedback from foreign industrialists regarding the potential of the island, was encouraging.

"Compared to most of the other islands, they find that St. Lucia is relatively well developed with great potential, particularly managerial potential. They are impressed with the degree of professionalism and the fact that people here particularly factory workers are more than comparable, in performance and skill.

Concerning the advantages of the CBI to St. Lucia, Mr. Joseph said that the island still faces a lot of competition from neighbouring islands despite its own assets.

"What we are trying to do is streamline cooperation among government ministries and departments to optimize the interfacing with investment both here and abroad.

"We will look at industrial projects with the intention of facilitating the commencement of the implementation of industrial projects."

He added that the NDC in collaboration with Government offices would cooperate with each other to present a unified front to the investor.

But one of the problems facing investment here, Mr. Joseph said, was the inadequate factory space. He said that the NDC was very busy trying to get the space required.

"Local and foreign investors are interested in these factory shells and right now the NDC is actively looking at many sources both here and abroad for the financing of these shells.

"We have many local firms who are interested in the shells and we are very sensitive to the needs of the local entrepreneurs.

"For this year, over 50 investors have displayed interest in setting up business here. St. Lucians themselves have been very interested and this I think can be blamed on the level of interest displayed by foreign investors.

"The local investor does not want to be side stepped. He has taken on the challenge for competition and the foreign interest has incited him to do something.

Also there is the possibility for joint partnership with a foreign investor. So all in all, there has been a lot of interest displayed with a great influx of locals who want to get into the action and 1984 looks good."

CSO: 3298/702

REOPENED PLANT ACCUSED OF UNION-BUSTING TACTICS

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 1 Apr 84 p 12

[Text] KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent--Thirty five workers reemployed by an American electronics plant here which reopened two weeks ago after being closed by an industrial dispute, have resigned from their union, according to its general secretary, Cyril Roberts.

Mr. Roberts said that since Pico St. Vincent Limited resumed operations after its three-week closure caused by a dispute with his Commercial Technical and Allied Workers' Union [CTAWU], he had received a steady stream of resignations from staffers who were members of CTAWU.

Mr. Roberts said he had been told by several of the workers that the management of Pico had told them that disassociation with the union was a condition of their re-employment.

Pico re-opened its Camden Park factory here on March 19, following talks it held with Prime Minister Milton Cato and the CTAWU.

The conditions agreed on then were that the company would continue to honour the collective agreement with the CTAWU, would re-employ 90 percent of its former workers who were members of the union, and would observe a "cooling-off period in relations with the union" until May, when the industrial agreement expires.

Mr. Roberts said he was told by the workers that the company had set up its own union to which they paid dues of EC \$1 (Bds \$.74) a week, and that the company had promised to match the amount and pay it to them as an end-of-year bonus.

He regarded the matter as "union-busting" tactics, a violation of the agreement made between the company and the union at talks with the prime minister, and a violation of the workers' constitutional rights.

He said the executive of his union would meet soon to discuss the issue and decide on its next move, but in the meantime he had written to Prime Minister Cato on the matter.

CSO: 3298/703

- END -