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3 December 1982

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2615

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OIL PRODUCTION CLIMBS TO RECORD HIGH OF 1,000 BARRELS DAILY

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 4 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

Barbados' oil production, now under state administration, has climbed sharply to a record 1 000 barrels a day with sales of crude fetching more than US\$1 million in October.

The significant increase in crude output from the Woodbourne oil field was announced yesterday at the signing of an oil and natural gas accord between the National Petroleum Corporation (NPC) of Barbados and Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation (PCIAC).

Speaking during the signing ceremony at Government headquarters, the Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams said: "We have of course already assumed control of the production operations and since assuming control, we have drilled six wells. I am happy to say production increased significantly from 700 barrels a day to over 1 000 barrels a day as the monthly average during October."

"Indeed, I believe we are now operating at record levels. We sold over US\$1 million in crude to the Mobil Refinery last month," Mr. Adams added.

The Government took over the drilling and production operations at Woodbourne from Mobil last July and immediately Barbados has steadily raised its oil output under a new shallow drilling programme. The 700 barrels a day level was achieved by August.

Stressing that the Woodbourne "operations are of great importance to Barbados", the Prime Minister said "...our immediate target is to be producing 1 200 barrels a day by the middle of next year."

He said arrangements for the final purchase of the assets of Mobil Exploration of Barbados Incorporated were well advanced and should be completed in the near future.

"When they are completed, the Mobil Company will become the Barbados National Oil Company, a subsidiary of NPC", the Prime Minister added.

Besides the Prime Minister, the Chairman of NPC, Mr. Aaron Truss also signed the agreement for Barbados while the Chairman, Mr. Peter Towe, signed on behalf of PCIAC.

The agreement is for technical and management support to NPC in operating its Woodbourne oilfield, other

oil and gas fields, and reservoir drilling evaluations.

Mr. Adams said that the project with Canada will involve substantial capital expenditure including the upgrading of the environmental and safety aspects of oil production at Woodbourne, and in Barbados.

Technical assistance in training and the development of NPC staff is another provision of the agreement which is already in progress, and will last until the end of 1983.

The Prime Minister is hopeful that by then the staff would be fully equipped to assume total responsibility for the Woodbourne field.

Recalling his talks on technical assistance with Prime Minister Mr. Pierre Trudeau and PCIAC, in Canada earlier this year, Mr. Adams noted the "fruit" was seen in the detailed terms and conditions of the pact signed here yesterday. Moreover, the agreement was an expression of the "concrete assistance Canada has always given Barbados."

"The assistance from Petro-Canada International can safely and confidently be expected further to boost the production of crude oil and natural gas," Mr. Adams said.

BRIEFS

ENERGY PLANS--The Dominica government's near-term plans include lengthening the runway and improving facilities at the Canefield airstrip near Roseau, thus bringing more scheduled flights closer to the capital and relieving travellers of the tortuous drive across the island's humped spine from Melville Hall airport way off in the North-East. Energy is another key area of the development thrust and there are several facets to the strategy of the Charles administration. Foremost among them is the decision to acquire the majority holdings of the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) in the Dominica electricity services. Another is the present lobby of the French government for aid for a 20-year power development project, involving both the expansion of hydro facilities and the establishment of a geothermal energy system. A new hydro-electricity station is planned for the Titto Gorge region south of Roseau. Dominica is extensively mountainous with substantial forest reserves, and, as is said, a river for each day of the year. Power generation, therefore, has depended very heavily on the water resources. The May 1982 World Bank economic memorandum on the island, noted that in normal years almost 90 percent of the country's electricity is generated by hydro installations. In the medium term, therefore, development of this sector will focus on the further exploitation of the hydro-electric potential. The CDB is now providing technical assistance to the government for feasibility studies that are expected to specify appropriate sites and a strategy for hydro-development. The government is also pursuing installation of micro-hydro stations for rural electrification, as a necessary condition for rural development and for reducing the drift of population from the rural to the urban areas. (CANA) [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 1 Nov 82 p 7]

CSO: 3298/113

SHORT, MEDIUM TERM HOPES PINNED TO PETROLEUM

Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Oct 82 p 5 A

[Text] In view of the country's current crisis, prospects for economic and productive growth in the short and medium term continue to be centered on petroleum, which is becoming increasingly important.

Actually it is hoped that the agricultural and livestock sector will maintain its level of growth, which fluctuates between 3 and 4 percent. No growth is foreseen in industry; it is more probable that there will be a decrease because of the elimination of subsidies, among other causes. Meanwhile, petroleum exports have increased 20 percent, and for next year the increase will be 35 percent.

Consequently, in addition to petroleum and traditional exports, the construction and agriculture sectors must be encouraged so that they will be able to generate or save foreign exchange for the country.

The petroleum sector--which has the greatest potential--as well as export activities, must be encouraged and promoted by the government.

Exploration undertaken by the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation [CEPE] has led to the discovery and subsequent incorporation into national production of new oil fields. These are located in the northeast region, which continues to be an important area for exploration.

Two Fronts

CEPE's experience of a decade permits us to point out that we need to have two fronts in this area: investment in exploration and investment in the incorporation and development of fields, activities which should merit the greatest stimulus, because if the first is not encouraged, we will not be able to increase reserves and, in the long run, production.

This year, because of the activities developed, it has been possible to bring into production four fields in the northeast (Shuara, Shushuquí, Secoya and Charapa); these fields were declared priorities by the board of directors, and production began this month. A few days ago, rectifying a previous decision, it was also decided in a similar move to incorporate the other four fields in

the northeast; Cuyabeno, Sansahuari, Tetete and Bermejo, whose initial production is estimated to be around 15,000 barrels per day, have a potential capacity of nearly 20,000 barrels per day.

1983 Budget

The first draft, according to official reports, indicates that CEPE will have a budget of 20 billion sucres, of which one-third (between 6 and 7 billion) will be earmarked exclusively for search and exploration, development and production, a figure which in the opinion of experts will be sufficient, because there would not be enough human resources to go beyond that.

Notwithstanding the importance given this work by the nation, in the last few months the office of assistant manager for production and exploration was disbanded, leaving its functions to the management level. This inexplicable decision is even more astonishing when one considers that any petroleum enterprise has at least four sectors: one for production, one for processing or industrialization of the product, another for sales and finally an administrative and financial sector. These sections or areas are found in oil companies the world over and are overseen by supervisors or managers of production, industrialization, sales and administration and financing.

In the corporation mentioned there are assistant managers for planning, sales and technology, and industrialization and production are subordinated to these. This is illogical, because the basic thing is to produce and then industrialize, which will always be a huge project, since CEPE will have refineries, petrochemical plants, etc.

Priority Activities

For this reason it is necessary that those in charge of production and exploration be given some leeway, and this will be achieved when these activities cease to be considered as subcategories; otherwise they will be managing around 70 percent of CEPE's investment.

According to the corporation's manager, in spite of fiscal austerity the firm's priorities are directed to the work of exploration and the search for petroleum, tasks which to date have been successful in the northeast and now in the southeast, which also offers good prospects since the discovery of hydrocarbons in Neuvo Amazonas 1 well, the first to be drilled in that region.

Meanwhile, optimism continues, especially in the exploration being done in the northeast, where the success rate has been nearly 70 percent of exploratory wells, while in the international petroleum industry it is 10 percent and in the United States, 30 percent.

8735

CSO: 3348/64

INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY MARKED; OPPOSITION AIRS CRITICISM

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Nov 82 p 10

[Text]

ST JOHNS:

ANTIGUA and Barbuda on Monday celebrated the first anniversary of independence from Britain with the administration of Prime Minister Vere Bird optimistic of the country's future in spite of what has been termed "disruptive elements" seeking to destabilise the economy.

Mr. Bird told the Press that despite efforts at destabilisation the country was still making economic progress.

The pomp, ceremony and fire-works of independence were missing throughout the week of celebrations which climaxed here with a ceremonial parade at the Antigua Recreation Grounds.

The parade brought together detachments from the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, the Police, Fire Service, Scouts, auxiliary organisations and schools dressed in uniforms.

PROJECTS

Also attending were Governor-General Sir Wilfred Jacobs, the Prime Minister and other dignitaries.

In an interview with CMA, Mr. Bird spoke of the loan facilities, which have been available to the country as a result of independence, and of massive development projects like the Deep Bay project where a large hotel complex is to be constructed by the Brazilians.

These projects, the Prime Minister said, will do much to stimulate the economy.

Mr. Bird pointed out that government has been making serious efforts at diversifying the economy by introducing new enterprises such as a biscuit factory, a plastic manufacturing factory and a sweets-making factory.

The Prime Minister also expressed optimism at developments like the return of Pan American Airways which is scheduled to resume flights here by the end of the year.

His reference to disruptive elements within the society was taken as a swipe at the Marxist Antiguan-Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM), which during the first year of inde-

pendence, has been at loggerheads with the administration.

The ACLM's newspaper, "Outlet" has accused the government of corruption... a claim the government denied.

ACLM leader, Tim Hector, said that after one year of independence, nothing had changed.

"As a well known phrase goes, this is a perfect case of the more things change, the more they remain the same," he said.

According to Mr. Hector, the productivity in general has declined.

He said government-run services, electricity, water, and roads have all deteriorated and government has no plans for bringing the people into the management and control of their

affairs, economic, social or political.

"Therefore, Antigua declines, drifts, just drifts," he said, "people do not like to drift, the people will soon declare their independence of and from the Bird regime."

Opposition Leader, Robert Hall, said that the first year of independence was a total disappointment.

"The economy remains stagnant, tourism, our major industry, has declined, manufacturing enterprises, especially clothing, have gone bankrupt, most of them having had loans and concessions to the tune of millions of dollars from the poor people of Antigua and Barbuda," he said.

Mr. Hall pointed out that the sugar factory was recently rehabilitated by gov-

ernment but the sugar industry remains "a miserable failure," having taken for 1982, an average of 34 tons of cane to produce one ton of sugar, thereby producing sugar at a cost of more than \$5 per pound.

A DROP

"Despite government's declaration of 1982 as Agricultural year," he said, "1982 has seen a distinct drop in agricultural production."

"An example of how miserably agriculture has failed for 1982, is the fact that the local sweet potatoes now sell for \$1.25 per pound, some three times the pre-independence price."

Parliamentary representatives for the tiny 62-square mile sister isle of Barbuda, Eric Burton, said independence has not affected the life of the average Barbudan.

"There is nothing new happening, nothing exciting, things were much better up to 18 months ago, when most Barbudans at least were working," he said, adding: "The changes for the worse in our economy have taken away much from us."

He pointed out that Barbudans are still not receiving their fair share from the central government. (CANA REUTER)

LABOR LEADER EXPLAINS SECTOR'S DIFFICULTIES, DEMANDS

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 1 Nov 82 p 10

[Interview with CGT-Azopardo leader Armando Cavalieri, by Ruben Ortiz; date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] What is your opinion of the government's wage policy?

[Answer] There has been a change in the procedure, but it does not suffice to compensate for the deep depression caused by the process of erosion of the wage-earners' income. Despite the policy implemented by Minister Hector Villaveiran, we are still submerged, and the constant price hikes are still penalizing the workers' family income. For the past 7 years, we workers have been carrying the entire weight of a socioeconomic program enacted against the country; and now, to repair everything that has been destroyed by that plan, we are going to tie ourselves to the IMF in a new commitment, contingent on the sacrifice of Argentines.

[Question] Should the union normalization take place before or after the institutional normalization?

[Answer] Neither of the two can withstand another minute's delay. The institutional restoration should occur in all areas of national life, right now.

[Question] There are rumors of a civilian-military arrangement relating to the dates of the elections. What is your opinion?

[Answer] We have maintained that one cannot speak of an arrangement, but rather of a prior repair of what the government destroyed in the Argentine institutions. The social projects and unions must be returned to the workers, and the political parties to the politicians. Today, 7 years after the start of the process, we do not know why everything was destroyed, without successfully building anything. We know that it was all done for the benefit of an economic program the results of which can no longer deceive anyone. Nothing is known about dates, and today's may already be too late.

We are staunch defenders of legality based upon the law of laws, the National Constitution. In the political realm, institutional restoration is the only possible arrangement, because all of us sectors representing the national area are agreed upon it. The social arrangement, which has been and still is our permanent goal, is something else.

[Question] What arrangement do the trade unionists demand?

[Answer] In an adult society, such as Argentina unquestionably is, it is inconceivable for the state to be replaced at the wish of the parties, when the latter are legally capable of agreeing on working conditions and the amount of wages. However, this took place after 24 March 1976. At that time, through the suspension of the legal order in effect (Law 14,250) on collective work contracts, a cut-off took place in a course of action which business owners and workers had traversed to convert interests and views that were at times opposed into agreements which were reflected in legal guidelines. In this way, there was a subversion of what the natural order and law had established as just. In this instance, as in everything, we must also return to the law.

[Question] Do you consider trade union unity possible? What conditions would be required for it?

[Answer] We must start with reality: The labor movement is not divided or separated for philosophical or doctrinal reasons. Its goals with respect to the reality that we are experiencing are the same. Both movements find themselves confronted with a systematic aggression that is based on a socioeconomic strategy which actually failed. From that point on, the only difference lies in the methodology used by one CGT [General Labor Confederation] leadership or another; and, in this area, each of the leaderships can find successes and mistakes. We should capitalize jointly on the successes, so as to prevent the enemy from capitalizing on the combined mistakes. If the examination is made with total disregard for personal positions and differences in temperament, keeping only the movement as a whole in sight, the organizational unity will be a reality as, in fact, the unity of action is. When Juan Peron arrived in the Labor Secretariat in 1943, there were more than two "CGTs", and with different features. Today, there are two with the same features. A successful social policy will naturally lead them to unity. If we all strive to make that policy possible, unity will have arrived on that day.

[Question] The CGT-Brazil claims that the government favors the CGT-Azopardo in the trade union normalizations. What do you think of this?

[Answer] I believe that it is a question to ask the CGT-Brazil but, viewing the situation of the Argentine labor movement, with its projects seized, its unions intervened in or frozen, its laws repealed and its gains ignored, no one here could seriously claim that the government is favoring anyone.

[Question] Should the trade union normalization be carried out with Law 22,105, or with the one that was in effect during the last constitutional government?

[Answer] We have assumed a position against Law 22,105, because it is the one which caused the destruction of the Argentine trade union movement. But the normalization should be carried out without extending the deadlines any further.

[Question] How should the social projects be handled?

[Answer] The social projects are a creation of the workers, and they were a clear demonstration of the solidary, responsible action of the Argentine labor movement, which acted in a subsidiary manner, making up for the state's shortcomings. No one is better than the workers at being able to care for the health of those whom they represent and their families; and we have more than one proof of this in the examples of what has happened during these past 7 years of military-business intervention in our social projects. The criticism made of the trade union sector regarding the handling of the social funds cannot even be made today and, in addition, we should bear in mind that the INOS [National Institute for Social Works] has the necessary authority to prevent any diversion of funds, or improper handling thereof.

[Question] What are the goals of the Peronist leaders of the CGT-Azopardo, in becoming aligned with Robledo's Justicialist Coordinating entity?

[Answer] We are seeking political agreements within the Justicialist Movement, because we Peronist leaders do not consider this the time for omissions: to militate is an obligation. Yet we do not think that we are doing so to foster an internal line, but rather to participate in an area of reorganizational activity that will lead us to complete Peronism, not to a faction, and to achieving the victory that the people want, with cadres that are perfectly disciplined and aware of their responsibility. We shall not seek the victory of individuals or of movements, but rather the victory of the nation, rescued for its destiny by the mutual effort of all Peronists, without any exception.

2909

CSO: 3348/91

UCR LEADER PUGLIESE EMERGES AS STRONG PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 20 Oct 82 pp 8-9

[Article by Julio C. Macchi: "The Reorganization of UCR"]

[Text] Last Saturday, for the first time in its history, the Radical Civic Union's [UCR] National Line was formally established. This was a pressing need in order to enable it to compete in organized fashion in the imminent internal contest, in view of the demise of Ricardo Balbin and the absence of an indisputable heir.

With the tacit candidacies of Raul Alfonsin and Luis Leon already launched by the Renewal and Change and Yrigoyenist Affirmation lines, respectively, all that was missing at the "catholes" (as the Radicals are in the habit of saying) was the likewise tacit candidacy of the oldest group in the octogenarian party. But it is not, as an unobservant person might imagine, that of Juan Carlos Pugliese (president-elect of the "Nationals"), but rather that of former Deputy Antonio Troccoli.

The latter, and former Senator Fernando de la Rúa, are the only personages who do not hold positions in the line, actually admitting to being "alone" in order to save themselves for the major battle: head of the Radical Party and the presidential candidacy.

The insistence upon ranking those nominations as "cantatas" is obviously due to the fact that there have not yet been direct elections of members to select precandidates. Nevertheless, no observer has failed to note that candidacies and leaderships always go hand in hand in party contests, and the three aforementioned leaders absorb the last rank in their respective internal groups.

After the National Line plenary session, its leaders admit that they were greatly encouraged and even surprised by the attendance of delegates. As everyone knows, 22 districts were represented, and the old office where Balbin handled his business in this capital was too small for them.

The "Nationals" interpret this almost total presence of the provinces as a sign of their increased organization, and of the fact that Balbinist ideas (or his causes, as they prefer to term them) are still summoning many Radicals, despite the contrary view of politicians outside of the party. This was the first time that the old political boss did not call a meeting of his followers in Buenos Aires, and some organizers admit that they had feared not achieving the same receptiveness.

This fact, and the internal and external repercussions, restored a large amount of optimism to those leading the National Line.

Saturday's "injection" prompted several "Nationals" to admit that "the New Year's Eve toasts could be the prelude to a meeting with mass-scale features," such as those given by Alfonsin and Leon.

In this context of internal "going from one extreme to the other," the leaders of the three lines are in the habit of complaining that the possibility of the "great Radical function," at which the "three tacit ones" would be the main speakers, is being lost. It is now a rather remote alternative, but it does not fail to concern them after the Justicialists, who have gained far more of a reputation as "scattered," were able to gather their most hostile "potential candidates" last night, among adherents and presences.

In the Capital

The focal point of the political commentary was the almost obvious precandidacy of De la Rúa for the vice presidency of the nation, representing the National Line, while remaining, as has been said, dissociated from the positions, along with Troccoli.

And it was rightfully commented upon, not because the former senator had no chance of attaining it, but rather because not only was another prominent leader from the capital excluded from a top-ranking post, but also none of the members of his movement (Popular Intransigency) represents him among the "Nationals": namely, Ruben Rabanal.

De la Rúa and Eduardo Díaz are members of "Unionism," and it cannot be disregarded that Rabanal is a son, and inherits the prestige and "records" of his father, Francisco, perhaps the most important metropolitan political boss in the history of the Radical movement.

Concerning this fact, the "Alfonsinists" make two speculations: "Either Ruben excluded himself in order to be left free from bonds and to join us if the circumstances require him to, or else it is a matter of contempt that he cannot tolerate, either personally or politically."

We are familiar with the rumors which at one time situated Rabanal (Jr) doctrinally closer to the "renewal" positions of Ricardo Balbín's traditional rival.

While the Radical picture is beginning to become clear, and the contenders are starting to show themselves candidly to one another, some leaders listened to Juan Carlos Pugliese's reflections on Saturday, and remained meditating: "The important thing here is to gain the Casa Rosada in free elections. If we all aim at that, and achieve it, all the lines will share the government as representatives of Radical thinking and not of a faction."

But few were apprised of other reflections which emerged from a meeting between a representative of National Line and another from Renewal and Change, both on a high party level. The rumors indicate that, although the first-named may have admitted some advantage for Alfonsin in the race for the presidential candidacy ("he moved outside," he explained), he also stated that there was still a long way to go and

that, at this point, the weight of the internal apparatus (controlled by the "Nationals") would be decisive.

In that same dialog, which took place in a small National Committee office, both leaders reflected that, although Alfonsin's candidacy might be one of those indicated for an attempt to reach the Casa Rosada, this was no guarantee that he would be the best president that the Radicals could offer. They also reportedly made the assessment that, in addition to imposing their man, the "Alfonsinists" would have to make their ideas penetrated UCR, because they run the risk that, as president, he might not represent the thinking of their majority.

Returning to the brand-new National Line leader, it should be noted that, at the last minute, he was concerned about giving a "turn of the screw" to his proposal for agreeing on the party's candidacies, thereby avoiding "unnecessary wear and tear."

After many Radicals have agreed that Pugliese is now very close to attaining the presidency of the Radical movement (with agreement or with internal [word missing]), they claim that, right after the affiliations, discussion will begin on the issue of the candidacies.

2909

CSO: 3348/91

MILITARY JUNTA'S RECENT GUIDELINES TO DIALOGUE ANALYZED

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Nov 82 p 12

[Article by Enrique Pinedo: "Response to a Call From the Junta"]

[Text] The Military Junta has called upon those responsible for directing various sectors of national public opinion and activity, has issued instructions to the Executive Branch regarding the type of action to be taken and has submitted 15 points for everyone to consider, so that the country may pass judgment on them, and then determine the extent of the agreement which could probably be reached if all of us focus our attention on the nation's higher interests and give up (even if only temporarily) the partisan criteria around which we Argentines have grouped ourselves in entities that are more or less large, more or less significant and more or less reliable.

Hence, I am fulfilling what I consider to be my obligation by responding to that call, and expressing a view on the 15 points at issue. For the present, it does not befit me to voice an opinion on the instructions to the Executive Branch, on which we have not yet been informed.

Martial Law in Effect

I think that the Executive Branch could take immediate steps to terminate the martial law which has been in effect for the past 8 years; in other words, imposed under Mrs Peron's government. However, I believe that, for a period of several months, the area of the federal capital and Greater Buenos Aires, including the city of La Plata and its environs, should be excluded from the abrogation, until the terrorist activity, another outbreak of which has been noted recently, ceases entirely. To take such action would, at the same time, demonstrate that the authorities realize the feasibility of moving to the legal system of liberty under which we have, in fact, virtually lived for some time, without failing to retain a watchful position on behalf of the maintenance of order where it is in jeopardy.

Elections and the Turnover of Power

The Constitution most forcefully intends the authorities to change gradually. This is why the Executive Branch has a 6-year term, the deputies a 4-year term and the senators a 9-year term. One of the branches, the legislative one, should be established first; for which purpose the provincial authorities must take office

beforehand, because it is the provincial legislatures which elect the national senators, except those for the federal capital. Hence, the election of the provincial legislatures could be undertaken, following the system that has been in effect in each of them recently. Once they have been established, and the national senators have been elected by them, and those from the federal capital have been elected, the Senate, which is the only judge of the legitimacy of their members, should be established. Thereafter, elections should be called for national deputies, thereby establishing the Congress. It would be incumbent on the latter to decide on the electoral law because, depending on whether one system or another is used, there could be a variation in the representative status of the president who is elected. The use of this procedure would make the results independent of the opinions of those who, otherwise, would decide on which electoral law is to be implemented (proportional, in its various potential forms, incomplete list, districts, or another). The electoral timetable would be marked by a logical sequence until the transfer of power to those elected by the people is completed, during the early months of 1984.

Battle Against Terrorism

The entire country has shown signs of wanting terrorism to disappear forever, and the types of action representing the violence in its milieu to be banned and severely punished. The country should, can and wishes to live in peace, and terrorism is opposed to that deeply rooted national sentiment.

Missing Persons

Among the persons missing during the subversive war, there appear to be some who have chosen to settle abroad, but the majority have shown no signs of life, and hence it is reasonable to assume that they are dead. So, we should all acknowledge this unfortunate fact. In my view, peaceful coexistence among all sectors is far more important than taking a long time to investigate the circumstances under which these unfortunate incidents occurred. And the results of the subversive war, and the termination of the terrorist action, were so desirable for public peace and the calmness of the nation that a reciprocal amnesty has become essential to bring to an end that page of Argentine history, which subsequent generations will be able to judge dispassionately in all its scope.

Economic Plan

In a summary of this type, it is impossible to offer an economic plan for the citizens' consideration. But we can say that the economic program of the constitutional authorities should have a short-term goal, and others which are medium and long-term. The short-term goal cannot be other than to mitigate the effects of the crisis, by adopting measures which could be stringent, but which must be aimed at a sharp reduction in unemployment and a revamping of the country's productive system, without fear, in achieving this, of resorting to measures of a highly state-controlled or protectionist type, which are the ones that can rebuild the leveling forces of the economy within a short time. It is important to aim for the improvement of real wages; and to achieve this it seems unquestionable to me that productivity must be improved. This demands capital formulation in business firms and that, in turn, requires creating an atmosphere of confidence which will make investment attractive. I would have no fear of encouraging investments, whatever their

origin may be, provided they were protected by the country's laws, which are sufficient to guarantee the investors' right to compensation commensurate with their risk and effort. The country must strive untiringly, and provide satisfactory compensation for those who work and invest, particularly those who make the economical production of exportable goods possible. They must be the basis for Argentine recovery, which is not only possible, but certain, if we expend our effort intensely.

Foreign Debt

The volume that our foreign debt has assumed forces us to consider new sources of production, in order to be able to cope with it. Based upon the premise that it must be paid, providing for its service and attempting to extend the amortization periods, not only is it legally binding to meet the obligations that the country has assumed, but it is also necessary to conserve the credit, so that we may become suitably developed. The creditors must realize that a country such as ours has the ability to pay, if only they offer it reasonable terms. As a debtor, I would trust in the reasonableness of the creditors; and, as a creditor, I would have faith in the potential of Argentina as a solvent debtor, even though it is in serious financial straits.

Yacyreta

This is an important project; but it is a project, and not an entire program. The country will deal with it insofar as possible, but it is not reasonable for it to mortgage its future in order to complete quickly a project which does not need to be totally implemented immediately. We can and should take the steps that are possible, without jeopardizing the economy as a whole. It should not be included as a special topic on this important agenda.

1984 Budget

The aim should be to balance the budgets, minimizing the deficits. Comparing the size of the deficits with the size of the gross domestic product might be an amusement with a scientific aspect, but what is important is that the size of the deficit not make the budget unmanageable. The old common-sense formula, indicating that the expenses must be cut and the funds increased, still holds true. For example, there is no possible justification for having over 70 state printing facilities. And when the country requests something of the government through its authorities, it must realize that it has to pay for it. So, it does not make sense to ask for spending and to protest against taxes. What is impossible is for some to do the spending and others to pay for it. If the country wants projects and high salaries, it is the whole country which must pay for that.

Law 22,105 on Professional Associations

The Constitution expressly establishes the right of association for useful purposes. It does not stipulate the obligation to become associated with a particular entity. Those who wish to become associated should be free to do so, and those who do not wish to become associated should have that right of theirs protected. The system of the single union is contrary to the constitutional principles. No individual or group should be deprived of the right to form his or its union if this is desired.

If they are weak, they will not have any negotiating power. Each sector will know what it must do in defense of its legitimate interests.

Law 22,269 on Social Projects

The unions which carry out their social projects should be free to administer the funds that they accrue, but they should not be allowed to accrue funds, on a compulsory basis, from those who are not members of the union organization; and, consequently, they should not be able to administer funds that do not belong to them. If they do not carry out their social projects well, it will be up to the members to remove or change their officials.

Malvinas Conflict

The decision to recover the Malvinas Islands for Argentine sovereignty was unanimously shared by the citizenry. Despite the fact that, after the conflict had ended, some dissenting voices (unheard during the course of it) were heard, it is valid to believe that the Argentine people were and still are in solidarity with that action. This is regardless of the results accrued, which are not bad. The universal recognition of our position in this regard was the result of our action, and it has been backed by the blood of our fellow countrymen, shed generously, without asking for an accounting. Argentina is of the opinion that they are part of our territory, and Argentina knows that we cannot make our sovereignty effective by dint of force.

The solidarity shown by the whole country, and by much of the world, toward the country, forces us to insist in all forums on the legitimacy of our rights, and to seek an understanding through responsible negotiations, so as to assert ourselves. Argentina need not disregard either the rights, interests or desires of the islands' inhabitants, but it need not surrender its own rights either. We have no doubt that, if the negotiations are held in good faith, they will bring results acceptable to both sides, which will reflect the degree of moderation and good judgment on which our country should pride itself.

Southern Dispute

Our dispute with the fraternal Republic of Chile over the southern islands, which it was attempted to settle through arbitration in a manner that was, moreover, faulty, and which is now in the process of mediation through the august personage of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, must be resolved on the basis of the oceanic division, a principle to which both sides have submitted in formal treaties. Argentine territorial waters are the ones indicated for it in the Atlantic by geography and history, and no Argentine claim to the waters of the Pacific, which belong to Chile, would be valid. We believe that this opinion is shared by the Argentine people, informed as they are concerning the basis whereon our rights are founded.

Investigation of Unlawful Persons

Every reliable report on unlawful persons should be investigated by the competent judicial authority, which must exhaust the resources for ascertaining the truth and seeking the punishment of those found guilty by the authorized court. If there is

any instance wherein public peace is threatened by a firm court decision (which is always possible), the Executive Branch has the expedient of pardon within its reach.

Stability of the Justice System

The Constitution calls for the stability of judges so long as their good conduct continues, because that stability is essential for the active exercise of an authority which enjoys true independence. It is understandable that the few instances of judges removed from their positions as a result of the revolutionary process of 1976 deserve serious amends in some cases, precisely because that principle of stability was not fulfilled. Some honest judges may have been removed without having demonstrated misconduct; and there are certainly many honest judges currently discharging their duties without the consent of the Senate, which has not been in operation during recent years. Wisdom and the best administration of justice demand that all the honest judges now administering justice be confirmed at the proper time by the Senate, and that the Executive Branch, at the proper time, propose to the Senate the approval of judges who were unjustly removed. But, except in the case of voluntary resignations, the highest court must be confirmed, so that each change in system will not entail a change in court, and the stability of the justice system will be a condition ratifying the republican system.

The Armed Forces in the Next Government

The Armed Forces have constitutional priority tasks to perform, which are stipulated in the texts of the fundamental law and the laws relating to their respective creations. The old law on ministries gave them two of the eight posts in the national cabinet. They must continue to serve as the guardians of sovereignty, and they must not intervene in internal political contests. Nevertheless, the historical events of the past 50 years tell us of an even more influential presence; and it is good logic to heed facts and not mere theories, however logical they may appear. I think that, during the period covering one or two constitutional governments, at least, they should be listened to by the political rulers, so as thereby to ensure the continuity of the public authorities more intensively.

2909

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PINDLING'S PROPOSED INCREASE IN CASINOS STIRS DISPUTE

Teachers Union Release

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Nov 82 pp 1, 8

[Article by Gladstone Thurston]

[Excerpts]

THE BAHAMAS Union of Teachers (BUT) is to invite all churches, through the Christian Council, to lead a national discussion on casino gambling.

This move comes in the wake of Prime Minister Lynden Pindling's disclosure at the PLP convention that the Government intends to expand casino gambling and allow Bahamians to work in casinos as croupiers and dealers.

In 1966, Christian leaders strongly opposed the expansion of casino gambling in the Bahamas, fearing that it may attract "undesirables" to this resort.

In a release signed by union president A Leonard Archer and secretary-general Haldane Chase, the union stated that it has made a firm commitment to the Bahamian people that it will speak on any national issue it chooses.

"To this end, the BUT will very shortly invite all churches, through the Bahamas Christian Council, to lead a national discussion on casino gambling as they valiantly did in 1966," the union said.

Teachers, the union said, have the right and responsibility to demand that the new school curriculum, unveiled by Education Minister Darrell Rolle last month, be implemented in the correct manner.

The responsibility to speak, the union said, falls inescapably to teachers because, "so intense is the insensitivity of the government to the education of poor, black Bahamian children at this stage in our history that, at the PLP convention, no committee was appointed to look into education, an area which is beset with unnecessary problems which need to be straightened out forthwith."

Worse still, the union said, the official Opposition takes it easy and says nothing.

However much it may not be appreciated, the union said, sincere teachers repeat so that all may understand that an agriculture curriculum "makes absolutely no sense" unless land is made available to children and their parents for planting crops and raising animals.

The union pointed out that ZNS TV-13 broadcasts, on an average, 3660 minutes per week but devotes only 330 minutes per week to educational programming.

Radio Bahamas, the union said, is on the air 10,800 minutes per week, devoting a grand total of 50 minutes per week to educational broadcasting in the form of a programme geared to children of pre-school age, "many of whom are in school when the programme is broadcast."

"Are these examples of the harmony, co-operation and cordial relations which exist between the Minister of Education and the Minister of Youth, Sports, Community Affairs?

Teachers, the union said, are determined that this country will provide its children with the best education it can afford.

And, teachers of the Bahamas, the union said, jealously guard their right as citizens to hold opinions, to receive and impart ideas and information without interference.

"We reaffirm our commitment to speak on issues affecting the good governing of our country in spite of the threats," the union said.

Despite the threats from various political quarters, "this is no time to cringe before threats and fits of hysteria," the union said.

FNM Opposition

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 3 Nov 82 pp 1, 14

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

THE FREE National Movement today criticized Prime Minister Pindling for his announcement over the expansion of casino gambling in the country and pointed out the PLP's lack of consistency over the casinos question.

The FNM believes that additional casinos will not solve the unemployment problem and feels that Government is "acting out of desperation."

"For years the PLP has been telling the public that the FNM was planning to expand casino gambling, but in the recent general elections, this issue was hardly mentioned," a party statement said today.

"Now, in typical style, Prime Minister L O Pindling has informed the nation that the number of casinos in the Bahamas will be extended to six."

The FNM deplored the fact that Mr Pindling waited until the end of his party's convention to make the announcement. "This meant that there was no opportunity for debate," they said.

Mr Pindling did not inform the public of his intentions in the elections only a few months ago and obviously did not tell his backbenchers of the plan, the statement said.

"In an important matter such as this, the people should have been given the opportunity to express their views instead of being presented with what seems to be a fait accompli."

The FNM said it was not aware of any recent policy statement on gambling by the PLP, although earlier statements indicated clearly that they were opposed to the proliferation of casinos.

Nothing has been said to indicate a change of policy.

As regards to its own position on casino gambling, the FNM said it "is not opposed in principle to legal gambling even though some of our members are opposed as a matter of conscience or religious relief."

The FNM reiterated the party's position on casino gambling as given in its platform. "After so many years of the existence of this form of entertainment, it is now a part of the Bahamian scene, both as an established tourist attraction and also as a substantial source of revenue."

It believes, however, that great care and consideration should be given before extending casino gambling in the country.

The FNM is completely opposed to Government-owned casinos. It feels the Government should get out of the business and act as a policeman in casino gambling

rather than the houseman. The Government's share can be extracted by means of a reasonable tax imposed on the operators, the FNM said.

The FNM said in its platform it saw no justification for preventing Bahamians from being employed as croupiers, "particularly at a time when there is such a high unemployment rate."

On this point, both parties are now in agreement. Until his announcement last Friday, Mr Pindling's policy was that Bahamians could not be croupiers or dealers.

However the FNM said: "We do not believe that the additional casinos will solve the unemployment problem created by the PLP Government's mal-administration and foolish policies over the last decade."

"We have been informed that there has been a drop-off in the casino business and if this reported trend continues

we would very well end up with six casinos sharing what is now split between three."

Having failed to reverse the rising trend in unemployment over the last 10 years, "the PLP Government is now acting out of desperation in attempting to find solutions for the problem," the statement said.

"This is a very dangerous state of affairs and puts the Government in a weak bargaining position dealing with prospective casino resort operators."

"Casinos will not solve our economic problems and provide jobs for our thousands of unemployed ..." the statement said. "What is needed is massive injections of new investment to make up for the last 10 years. The PLP Government have failed to attract such investment and we doubt seriously that they can flick a single switch now and have it all happen."

Problems in Senate

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 3 Nov 82 pp 1, 14

[Text]

PRIME Minister Pindling's announcement that there will be an increase in the number of casinos operating in the Bahamas has put at least three PLP Senators in a bit of a dilemma.

In August, Mr Pindling appointed a number of prominent Baptists, Anglicans and Catholics to his 12-member senate team.

These senators and some PLP backbenchers were reportedly taken by surprise by Mr Pindling's announcement

on casino gambling at the PLP Convention and are probably doing some serious soul-searching on the matter. The Catholic Church is on record as opposing an expansion of casino gambling and the Baptist church in 1978 said it "opposed gambling in all forms."

However, the senators were not prepared today to comment on how they view this conflict of interest.

"I'll wait until it reaches debate at the Party level and

the House level before I commit myself to anything," Senator Ishmael Lightbourn, an administrative member of Bethel Baptist church said this morning.

"I have no comment to make at this time," said Mrs Patricia Coakley, an ardent Roman Catholic, when questioned on her stance.

And Mrs Ruby Ann Cooper-Darling, a Baptist, told the morning paper "I haven't really thought about it...I have to go to God about this one...I never go into anything until I consult Him."

Religious Groups' Objections

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 4 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

BAPTIST LEADERS today said they were "shocked, appalled and sorely disappointed" over Prime Minister Lynden Pindling's announcement last Friday that there will be an extension of casino gambling in the Bahamas.

The statement was made by the Bahamas Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention leaders today after three days of high level meetings on the matter.

The convention said that Mr Pindling's announcement relative to gambling was "puzzling and unacceptable" when, in 1973, he stated on the floor of Parliament that the Government had no intention of expanding gambling in the country.

"Subsequently, in 1978, the Prime Minister went on record to say that he would consult with the Church and the people if at any time he felt the need to change this posture on gambling. We feel that he has reneged on both of these promises," the convention's statement said.

The Convention wanted to know whether investors' confidence had reached such a low ebb that all the country can attract are "dubious, shady and unwanted" characters who constitute the gambling world.

The Baptists, who have consistently opposed gambling, listed four reasons why they feel that gambling is theologically objectionable. They listed the reasons as:-

"Firstly, it runs contrary to the essential Christian trust in God as Father and Provider, and is motivated by covetousness. (Exodus 20:17).

"Secondly, it debases life to the lower level of chance and luck, contrary to the Biblical injunction that "if any would not work, neither should he

eat." (II Thessalonians 3:10). We question whether gambling is indeed honest labour.

"Thirdly, it fosters a complete disregard for one's neighbour, and corrupts the genuine spirit of sportsmanship, adventure initiative and creativity, which again is contrary to Matthew 19:19 that we should love our neighbours as ourselves, and the very Golden Rule is violated.

"Fourthly, it makes a mockery of opening the Legislature with prayer, and asking God for daily sustenance. Does this country still believe in the guiding hand of God? 'Righteousness still exalt a nation, and all nations that forget God shall be turned into hell.' (Psalm 9:17).

"Where does the New Frontier intend to lead us as a nation-to wholesome, sound, economic ventures, or to the gateway of hell?" asked the Baptists.

Gambling also has far-reaching social implications and ramifications, they said. "We contend that our national and international image will be tarnished and our very social fibre will be stretched to the very breaking point."

"Projecting the Bahamas as a gambling haven deters us in our efforts as a church to participate in the Ministry of Tourism's drive to boost tourism," they said. "And the records show that the Baptists have consistently brought a substantial number of people to our country.

"Thirdly, we are concerned that our young children will be exposed to, and reared in, a gambling environment and influence."

The Baptist leaders said they were extremely disappointed that as recently as last June, this Christian community gave

the Government a decisive victory, only to be told three months later that the best the Government could offer is an expansion of gambling. "One would have thought that the Government would have embarked upon a programme of further diversification of our economy, and a massive campaign to attract foreign investors to our country in preference to expanding gambling," they said.

"While the Prime Minister and his Cabinet seem determined in their stand we implore them to change their course of direction, for the Bible says, 'There's a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof is the way of death.'"

"We firmly believe that the net result of this policy to this country, will be socially catastrophic and morally irreparable," the Baptist leaders concluded.

The Baptists condemnation comes sharp on the heels of criticism by Bishop William Johnson, National Overseer of the Church of God for the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos.

Bishop Johnson, who strongly opposes casino gambling from a moral standpoint, told The Tribune he was concerned that the Bahamas would become like Cuba was during the Batista era if casino gambling continued to expand.

Mr Pindling's statement on casino gambling at his party's Convention caught many PLP backbenchers and Senators by surprise. He said a casino would be built in southwestern New Providence, another in West End, Grand Bahama, and the Monte Carlo casino in Lucaya would re-open. There are already three casinos operating in the Bahamas, one in Freeport, one in Nassau and another on Paradise Island.

PINDLING KEYNOTE AT PLP MEETING INTRODUCES JOBS PROGRAM

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 30 Oct 82 pp 1, 3

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Lynden Pindling declared last night his government will make Bahamians croupiers in casinos and will open more casinos to spur economic development and provide jobs to thousands of unemployed.

To this end, the Prime Minister said, a new casino will be built in the southwestern New Providence and another in West End, Grand Bahama, to make a total of six casinos operating in the Bahamas.

In his keynote address at the closing session of his Progressive Liberal Party's 27th national general convention, Mr Pindling said that the government will reopen the Monte Carlo Casino in Lucaya, and will not close the El Casino in downtown Freeport.

"Now that casinos are Bahamian-owned, the Government has decided to use casinos more effectively as an instrument of economic development, an engine for resort development and a generator of good new jobs in a revived tourist sector," he said.

The Prime Minister also told hundreds packing the Polaris Hall of the Holiday Inn Hotel on Paradise Island that the government was taking "immediate and decisive action" on three strategies for job creation, including the establishment of an international-free trade zone in the Bahamas.

The Prime Minister also said the government had carefully considered the advisability of the development of industries based on the scientific development of agriculture in a move at diversification of the economy.

He assured delegates from the 43 constituencies that the government will not rest or relent in its quest to "increase employment and decrease crime" throughout the country.

The Prime Minister said in his 23-page address televised live over TV-13 that the government had "reviewed and revised its policy on casinos" to enable rapid expansion to take place in the most desirable locations.

"As has already been announced, Bahamians will be allowed to work as dealers in casinos and men and women can look forward to new, substantial, well-paying jobs," he said.

"To facilitate this, casino operators will be asked to submit as early as possible their plans for the training of Bahamian croupiers," the Prime Minister told the convention to loud applause.

He said the southwestern part of New Providence had been slowly developing for years as a high-class resort area.

To facilitate and further encourage that development, he said, "it has been agreed that a third casino will be

allowed in the southwest of the island when first-class tourist accommodation there reaches a minimum level of a thousand rooms."

"A thousand new jobs will be created when the Cable Beach Hotel, Casino and Convention Centre opens in fifteen to eighteen months time," he said.

"We need to create more jobs than that, however," Mr Pindling said. "So the government has decided to give additional business incentive to the private sector so that a minimum of another thousand permanent jobs could be created in tourism in the southwest to which will be added new opportunities for taxi-drivers, craft manufacturers and straw business persons."

Saying that the facts of life must also be recognized for what they are in Grand Bahama, the Prime Minister added that Lucaya, as a first-class tourist centre, began to decline immediately after the Monte Carlo Casino, once located in the Lucayan Bay Hotel, was closed by the Grand Bahama Development Company Limited and incorporated in El-Casino in downtown Freeport.

"The Monte Carlo Casino will reopen in Lucaya in early 1983 but our studies have shown that it would be foolhardy to then close the El Casino as was originally thought," he said. "To do that would be repeating the mistake that was made earlier by the Grand Bahama Development Company Limited."

With a view to maintaining the level of amenities available to tourists living in the downtown areas of Freeport, it had been decided that the El Casino will not close but will be continued," he said.

"This will safeguard 2,000 existing jobs in hotels and shops around Ranfurly Circus and create a minimum of 500 more," Mr Pindling said.

He noted that the Grand Bahama Hotel, also known as Jack Tar Hotel, in West End, Grand Bahama, closed in May of this year after 30 years of operation.

"The operators claimed that they never made any money there and we claimed that their decision was politically motivated," he said. "But this is no time to continue to argue whether any of that is true or not."

"What we do know is true is that 500 Bahamians in the western part of Grand Bahama have been put out of work and it is their interest that must be taken into account," he said.

He said that the Grand Bahama Hotel is located on a desirable site with extensive acreage for touristic development, which has long been recognized but nothing was done by the old operators of the hotel.

"As a result, West End, once a thriving town, has not prospered over the last 15 years and has lost population to Freeport," he said. "West End is now entitled to its place in the sun."

He said the government was desirous of coming to the rescue of the West End community and to create a thousand new jobs in western Grand Bahama.

"Accordingly, we have decided to create the incentive for the revival of West End as a community, as a town, as a game-fishing centre, and as a world class resort area," the Prime Minister said.

"To achieve this," he said, "it has been decided that, as an incentive to a resort developer to restore and build up the touristic facilities there and provide a cumulative total of a minimum of 1,000 rooms, a casino will be incorporated in the new resort facilities."

On the establishment of free trade zones in New Providence and in other islands, the Prime Minister pointed to the success of Communist China in just three years and noted that more than 80 nations now sponsor free zone facilities.

"For all nations entertaining free zone facilities, increased and substantial exchange earnings, together with expansion of urban employment and training opportunities, have been two of the major benefits experienced to date," he said.

He added: "Our research has

shown that an effectively run international free trade zone in the Bahamas will present a promising opportunity to both the country and private investors for ten good reasons:

- The Bahamas' favourable geographical and strategic location with respect to the major shipping lanes and markets;

- The stability of the Bahamian Government and the broad range of incentive available;

- The General System of Preferences and the Lome Convention, permitting goods from developing countries like the Bahamas, duty-free entry into the United States of America and European Economic Community countries;

- The Bahamas being a well-established international financial centre and an extremely attractive tax haven;

- The modern and sophisticated infrastructure, especially in New Providence, Grand Bahama, Andros and Abaco;

- The adequate transportation and communication facilities;

- The available and trainable labour force in the Bahamas;

- The first-class recreational, entertainment and support facilities available in the Bahamas.

- The English-speaking population of the Bahamas; and

- The ample space for future expansion on Andros, Abaco and other Family Islands.

He said that he has directed the Minister for Economic Affairs to treat the establishment of a free trade zone in Nassau as "a matter of urgency."

"Pursuant to that objective, he is already in discussion with an investment group which is prepared to locate in Nassau for the purpose of fabricating precision components for a number of manufacturers utilizing computer-programmed machine tools and for the repair, refurbishment and sale of aircraft parts and aerospace systems," he said.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY MEETS; OPPOSITION MOTIONS ON TAP

Review of Pending Business

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

THE HOUSE of Assembly meets tomorrow with a full slate of questions, resolutions and select committee appointments waiting to be debated.

House of Assembly officials could not confirm whether newly elected Grant's Town representative Bradley Roberts will be sworn in as a Member of Parliament, but it is expected that he would be.

Following last month's week-long debate on the Government's legislative plans for this session of Parliament, the business of the House was suspended until tomorrow when other matters on the agenda will be dealt with.

Also, Deputy Prime Minister A D Hanna promised that at the next sitting of the House, questions asked Government Ministers by the Opposition dealing with matters important to the social and economic welfare of the nation will be answered.

"We have all the answers to all the questions," Mr Hanna told the Opposition members and promised that they would be made available tomorrow.

The questions concerned the present status in the preparation and commissioning of the Revision of the Statute Laws of the Bahamas; negotiations between the Bahamas and the United States in connection with the AUTEK base in Andros; and money advanced by the Government to the Hotel Corporation for the renovation of the Lucayan Beach Hotel.

Of the 12 requests for the appointment of select committees, eight are being asked for by Government members.

They include committees to consider the rules of the House; to consider what exemptions ought to be made to the provision of the Constitution regarding conflict of interest in respect to Members of Parliament having dealings with the Government;

crime and law enforcement; education and training; social security; and job creation and employment.

One interesting committee sought by the Opposition deals with political influence peddling and misrepresentation of the ownership of Bahamian businesses.

Another one will be to investigate violence and its relationship, if any, to politics during the period 1970 - 1972 and particularly the events of Lewis Yard, the 1970 no-confidence vote, and Perpall Tract.

Most of the resolutions were tabled by Opposition members who are asking the Government to rectify the lack of proper infrastructure - road, water, light, playfields - in their constituencies.

The Opposition will also seek passage of amendments to the Magistrates Act, the Civil Procedure Act, the Matrimonial Causes (Summary Jurisdiction) Act, and the Affiliation Proceedings Act.

Selection of Committees

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 3 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

THE House of Assembly this morning agreed to the appointment of two committees and was considering one more when business suspended for lunch.

Members unanimously agreed to the appointment of a committee to consider the rules of the House of Assembly.

Appointed to that committee were Deputy Prime Minister Arthur D Hanna, Sinclair Outten (PLP, St Barnabas), Moses Hall (PLP, West End), Leader of the Opposition Kendal Isaacs and Orville Turnquest (FNM, Montagu).

Members of the House also agreed to a committee to consider what exemptions ought to be made to the provisions of the Constitution regarding conflict of interest in respect to Members of Parliament having dealings with the Government.

Appointed to that committee were Mr Hanna, Edison Key (PLP, Marsh Harbour), Charles Carter (PLP, Holy Cross), Cecil Wallace Whitfield (FNM, Pine Ridge) and C A Smith (FNM, Marco City).

During the brief discussion on both matters, Mr Hanna said that at some later stage "we must have to consider even more fundamental problems as to whether we should become a Republic."

CSO: 3298/117

PLP SENATE LEADER TO PUBLIC: DON'T PAY IF PHONES DON'T WORK

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 4 Nov 82 pp 1, 5

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text]

ANDREW "Dud" Maynard, newly appointed PLP Senate leader, today blamed Batelco management for the poor telephone situation and has called on the public not to pay their telephone bills if their phones are not working.

Mr Maynard, addressing members of the Senate this morning, said that the productivity in the country today is at its "lowest ebb," and said that more than half the telephones in the country don't work, but said that "the blame does not lie with the Minister of Works and Utilities."

"I blame the management at Batelco, they need a beating. They are the people responsible for the day to day management of Batelco and they are the persons responsible for the poor telephone situation," he said.

Mr Maynard said that the telephone system in the Bahamas would be the best in this hemisphere "if it were working." He also questioned

how long the foreign investor will stay in the Bahamas if he cannot "call around the corner, much less to his head office in London or Zurich."

"While we are wrongly blaming the Minister on the situation our whole structure is going to pieces. We must think about the investor, who the opposition is always singing praises about. How long do you think they will stay here? If Batelco management puts its foot down, they will find that the workers will start to produce," Mr Maynard said.

"The people are not satisfied with the service they are paying money for and I say don't pay the phone bill if the phone doesn't work."

Mr Maynard also said that it was not the Minister's fault when 2 million gallons of water is wasted daily because of a leak. He said that it was because the workers "just can't be bothered with fixing the leak."

"The Minister don't fix no pipe," he said. "Bahamians lack pride in their job, their self and their country. They have no

true interest in nation building. We have to take our job and profession seriously," he said.

Henry Bostwick, the opposition leader in the Senate, said that the reason the productivity in the country was at its lowest ebb is because for 15 years a generation of Bahamians have been taught by their leaders that they can expect something for nothing.

"They don't have to worry about making life better for themselves, they are told don't worry we will 'handle it' for you. They expect social services and charity. They no longer have to live by the sweat of their brow, they are told continuously, leave it to big brother. The work ethic has been killed in this country," Bostwick said.

He said that private enterprise in the Bahamas is a "thing of the past."

Mr Bostwick also said that another reason for the low productivity was because all the government departments are "padded with the sons and daughters of loyal PLP supporters."

VANGUARD PARTY INAUGURATES WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF ITS ORGAN

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 1 Nov 82 p 8

[Text]

ON SATURDAY, October 30, the Vanguard Party commenced publication of its newspaper, "The Vanguard" on a weekly basis.

In this weekly, a Vanguard spokesman said they will heighten the ideological struggle for socialism in the Bahamas.

The paper claims it will also cover those facets of the news that are not emphasized in the daily press, and a special effort will be made to carry important features of international news, and the achievements of the socialist countries.

As "the sole organ of the oppressed," the Vanguard's columns will be open to Bahamians from all walks of life, who wish to publish letters, articles or reports, the spokesman said.

"The Vanguard Party from its inception has made clear to the Bahamian people, that it will not stop struggling until there is an equalitarian society

with freedom and respect for the masses. We see the Vanguard's weekly as just another step in our efforts to expose the arch deceivers of our people. They seem hell bent on setting up a monarchy in this country," said a spokesman.

"The Vanguard Party did not come out of the election defeated, for we realize that we are the only party that talks seriously to our people, and the only party that paid nothing to our workers and strugglers in the 1982 Election," said the spokesman. A just society must be based on principle, and the Vanguard Party has more principle than the PLP, FNM and all the other political parties in the country put together, he said.

"In short, we are confident, we are getting good recruits, and we are certain that we can build a strong Vanguard Party in the near future. As we will constantly point out in our newspaper, the Bahamian future is Socialist," he said.

RULING PLP ELECTS OFFICERS; BRENVILLE HANNA CHAIRMAN

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

YOUNG LIBERALS co-ordinator Brenville 'Bulla' Hanna won an expected landslide victory against former Cabinet Minister Simeon Bowe to take the chairmanship of the Progressive Liberal Party for the first time.

Formerly the first vice chairman, Hanna drew heavily on the votes of the young members of the party to take over the post left vacant by retired chairman Senator Andrew 'Dud' Maynard. Hanna won 318-85.

Earlier, it was anticipated that with Maynard's retirement, other officers in the party would just move up one notch. That was not to be the case. In a major upset, long-time party officer Irrington "Minky" Isaacs was ousted as three new faces appeared on the slate.

Isaacs, formerly the fourth vice chairman, was making his

bid for the first vice chairmanship in a tough battle against former second vice chairman Fernley Palmer. Palmer came out on top collecting 255 votes against Isaacs' 146.

The first new face to appear on the slate was that of hotel executive Charles Major Jr. Unsuccessful in his bid for the PLP's Grant's Town nomination, Major collected 290 votes against Cliff Bowe's 112 to win the second vice chairman post.

Third vice chairman James L. Thompson did not run for re-election leaving that post open to a four-way race. Lawyer/economist Neville Adderley with 202 votes easily won that post against High Rock council member Perry Dean (84 votes), Gwen Moncur (75 votes) and Godfrey W. Pinder (44 votes). Adderley was the party's candidate in the Montagu constituency.

Airline executive Hassam Brown was elected fourth vice chairman in a close race against Denis Martin of Grand Bahama. Brown received 185 votes against Martin's 174. A third candidate Jock Morgan of Spanish Wells got 42 votes.

James Minns retained the post of assistant treasurer with a 278-160 victory over newcomer Gordon Soles from Holy Cross.

Prime Minister Lynden O. Pindling and Deputy Prime Minister Arthur D. Hanna were returned unopposed as Leader and Deputy Leader respectively of the PLP. Also returned unopposed were treasurer Percy Munnings and assistant secretary-general Peggy Francis.

The secretary-general of the PLP is an appointed post and is presently held by Senator Berlin D. Pratt. There has been no indications to date that he will be removed.

CSO: 3298/117

ADAMS ANNOUNCES TASK FORCE, PLANS FOR LAND TAX ISSUE

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 3 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

A special task force to deal with collecting arrears of land taxes, the abolition of the Rates and Taxes Division of the Ministry of Finance and the sale by Government of lands owing tax are some of the measures being taken to correct the problems being encountered in land tax collection.

These measures were announced by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr. Tom Adams, in a statement he made before the House of Assembly yesterday.

Land tax collection functions are to be handed over to the Department of Inland Revenue as from April 1 next year.

And Mr. Adams said that in the months that remained of the Division's life every effort was being made to reduce the volume of arrears so that the problems of handover would not be as complicated as they were in 1972-1973.

The task force will comprise representatives of all the departments concerned and will have outside legal assistance, Mr. Adams said.

He added that the most important aspect of the action to be taken to recover arrears is that Government has decided to carry out sales of the lands owing tax.

According to him there were about 900 properties which each owed \$2 500 or more to a

total of \$8 million "and a start will be made with them".

Mr. Adams told the House that he will shortly be seeking amendments to the Land Tax Act to facilitate this exercise.

The Finance Minister said that the amendments will be devised to permit sale of the land clear of all liabilities.

He added that the land will be advertised and sold without a Survey Plan and the upset price will consist of the sum of the tax due, penalty and interest and the cost of conducting the sale.

The Ministry of Housing will be seeking to buy all tax owing properties upon which derelict buildings stand for the purpose of returning these properties to economic use for housing or otherwise, Mr.

Adams said.

The Prime Minister said that the process of setting up the task force was proceeding.

Representatives of all departments concerned have met and have identified the problems, he said.

He disclosed that they had agreed on a strategy to clear the land tax roll of any errors that it may have and to avoid similar errors in future "so that the Government does not intend to be oppressive in the matter of land taxes".

"All complaints will be legally examined and dealt with expeditiously so as to remove any possibility of selling land in error," the Prime Minister told the House.

CHELTENHAM DISCUSSES AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS, PLANS

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 2 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

NOT a single licence has been issued in Barbados so far this year for the importation of traditional fresh vegetables.

So said Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, Dr. Richard Cheltenham, as he delivered the feature address at the closing ceremony at a one-day seminar organised by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) at the Barbados Workers Union (BWU) Labour College.

Dr. Cheltenham said that the Prime Minister had already indicated that the ministry was working on an agricultural incentives act, and noted that they have been making steady progress on that.

He continued: "We have been looking at what obtains in Jamaica and elsewhere, where there is such legislation on the statute books. We have been using our own ingenuity and resources and I hope that before the end of March (next year), that I could pilot that important bit of legislation through the House."

He pointed out that particular emphasis would be given to export crops, but noted that they would also be looking at other areas of production for the domestic market.

He continued: "But it is not only in the area of incentives and grants that we have made significant progress. We have also made progress in terms of another recommendation which you forwarded to me. That is, the one that said that we should not issue any import licences for crops that could be adequately produced here in Barbados, and I thought that was elementary and wise even though it did not always obtain in the past."

"I am happy to tell you that in terms of traditional Barbadian fresh vegetables, we have not issued a single import licence thus far for the year. Yet, we have issued licences in relation to celery, brussel sprout and one or two other temperate vegetables needed by some hotels, but we have not issued any licences for traditional Barbadian vegetables."

The minister said that in his opinion, we were past the most difficult part of the year and unless there was some devastating, unforeseen natural disaster, then we could get through the remainder of the year without issuing any licences.

LABOR DISPUTES INVOLVE TEACHERS, POWER COMPANY WORKERS

BSTU Proposals to Government

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 2 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

The Barbados Secondary Teachers Union (BSTU) said last night it had made progress at a meeting held last week with Government's Chief Establishment Officer to the union's counter proposals on behalf of its members.

BSTU President Mrs. Grace Thompson said that her organisation was also seeking another meeting before November 13, the date of the BSTU's annual general meeting, at which the union's general body will have to be brought up to date on the matters.

Among the counter proposals is a measure which the union is asking for tax reliefs and other concessions.

Mrs. Thompson said that one of the concessions being sought is that the Transport Levy be tax deductible, and that there be an increase in the maximum sum claimed

under mortgage interest from the current \$6 000 per annum.

She also stated that Government was also asked to vary its decision to compensate people made redundant in the public service so as to include loss of partial earnings.

This she noted would relate to those teachers who may through amalgamation, reorganisation of schools, or otherwise, lose an emolument whether pensionable or unpensionable for undertaking additional duties.

The BSTU also raised with the CEO a suggestion that Government alter the appropriate legislation so as to make pensions a right.

The counter proposals discussed where that:

—Government give an undertaking that it accepts the principle that pensioners are treated no less fairly in any revision of salaries than their successors in the service;

—Correction be made in the

case of special grade teachers who were affected by the conversion arrangements in the last salaries revisions;

Housing for heat-teachers;

—Uncertificated sick leave;

—Seeking to have altered leave regulations which stated that a teacher who is about to retire and who is entitled to long leave must take leave out of the island;

—Provision be made for a teacher to take during the course of an academic year a number of days not exceeding three without pay to attend urgent business;

—An undertaking from Government that it will not attempt to increase the length of a school day or school year beyond the existing status quo with respect to hours per day and weeks per year.

Other counter proposals include a request that Government allow fractions of years service to be aggregated in the computation of service for incremental credit.

'Unofficial' Power Strike

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 2 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

OVER 100 employees of the Barbados Light and Power Company stayed off their jobs yesterday, after defying their union's call to end an unofficial strike.

Grantley Callender, linesman, had been suspended on Friday afternoon indefinitely, following a dispute with management which concerned his use of the company's parking lot.

Workers claimed that their colleague had been parking in that area for two of the three years he was employed with the company. They questioned the reason for management wanting him not to do so anymore, and thought that the suspension "was unreasonable".

Workers on strike were mainly from the line construction section and distribution.

Meanwhile, an official spokesman for the company said the reason for Callender's suspension rested with his refusing to carry out a reasonable instruction — "not to park in this spot".

A "No Parking" sign has been painted since the incident, according to workers.

However, the official noted that the strike did not affect the operations and everything was at normal running.

The Barbados Workers Union and management of the company will meet to discuss the dispute.

CSO: 3298/118

OPPOSITION URGES PUBLIC TO TAKE ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTEST ACTION

Barrow Action

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 29 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

FORMER Prime Minister Errol Barrow who is now Opposition Leader in the House of Assembly, yesterday said that "people power" and not "parliamentary tactics" would effect change in Barbados.

He said that it was a waste of time tabling motions of no-confidence in the Government. The solution, he suggested, was for the people to publicly demonstrate their strong opposition to Government.

Speaking from the Spry Street offices of his law firm, Barrow said: "The only changes for improvement that will come about for this generation of Barbadians will come when the citizens of this country take the same procedures used in St. Lucia and St. Vincent . . . that is, withdraw their support for government and publicly demonstrate their feelings."

He added: "It is a waste of time for the parliamentary opposition to table no-confidence motions with the Government's prevailing 17-10 majority in the House of Assembly."

He said that the present state of decay in the country is as a result of bad management, adding the answer is not to be found in the introduction of new levies or mauling out old land tax bills.

He charged: "The Government has got itself into debt by introducing programmes which are not productive."

He drew examples in the Industrial Development Corporation building and the Central

Bank complex, which he believed could be delayed until another ten years.

He noted that the purchase of Mobil Explorations Barbados Limited by Government was "scandalous" taking into consideration the current finances of the country.

He criticised the many levies, stating, "The Government has depressed the purchasing power of the man in the street, by introducing such measures as the transport levy, stamp duty and increase in motor car licences."

He said that ad hoc taxation measures inflicted on the people of Barbados in the last three years could be as high as \$3 billion.

Minister Craig's Reaction

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 4 Nov 82 p 14

[Text] **PARLIAMENTARIAN** Lionel Craig on Tuesday accused former Prime Minister Errol Barrow of ignoring his previous contribution to development in this country, and attempting to ferment public disaffection.

Craig, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, and leader of the Barbados House of Assembly, was taking issue with a statement by Barrow, published in last Friday's **NATION**, in which the now Opposition Leader called for "people power" and not "Parliamentary tactics" to bring about change in this country.

Barrow was quoted as saying: "The only changes

for improvement that will come about for this generation of Barbadians will come when the citizens of this country take the same procedures

used in St. Lucia and St. Vincent. ... that is withdraw their support for government and publicly demonstrate their feelings."

Craig told the House that when his party - the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) - was in opposition, it marched on the streets in an orderly fashion on more than one occasion, but it did not advocate public commotion.

If the member of St. Michael South-Central, Dr. Richie Haynes, had made the statement attributed to Barrow, argued Craig, it would not have merited reply.

Haynes, he branded as "a blind swiper. . . a man (Barrow) foisted upon his party".

The Leader of the House suggested he would expect such a statement to come from Haynes, but not Barrow, who had given this country free education, free school meals and independence.

Craig said if the statement was accurate, as appeared in the Press, then it was the most irresponsible statement made in his life by the former Prime Minister.

He hoped that Barbadians would not adhere to what was stated.

Craig added that although Barrow still has "a dangerous uppercut", he could no longer be Prime Minister again, because Barbadians do not now see him as a man capable of carrying the country once more.

However, the House Leader said that while one still had to watch the Opposition leader closely, "I am saddened today to read that report, if it is accurate."

If not, Barrow must come out and condemn it, he demanded.

Editorial Comment

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 4 Nov 82 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

ELSEWHERE in today's issue, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Lionel Craig is reported to have attacked certain statements attributed to Opposition Leader Mr Errol Barrow on the weekend.

In a rather straightforward comment to THE NATION, Mr Barrow made the point that the time had come for the people to recognise their own power and do something to show their concern.

Mr. Barrow's statement was in relation to the fruitlessness of taking no confidence and other resolutions to the House of Assembly. He wanted people to appreciate that their power was supreme over the power of Parliament.

He said that in St. Lucia and St. Vincent, the people had recognised this and had taken to the streets to assert this power.

Mr. Craig is however concerned about these remarks.

Says he: "When he was in opposition he marched on the streets in an orderly fashion, but he did not advocate public commotion."

Nowhere in Mr. Barrow's statement is there any suggestion that public protest should take the form any form other than that used by Mr. Craig in less well off times.

Mr. Barrow's words are very clear: "The only changes for improvement that will come about for this generation of Barbadians will come when the citizens of this country take the same procedures used in St. Lucia and St. Vincent ... that is withdraw their support for Government and publicly demonstrate their feelings."

We think that the point which Mr. Craig should really have taken note of, was the one in reference to the frustration experienced by the Opposition in dealing with the people's business, no confidence motions and resolutions critical of government.

After all, Mr. Craig is Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. He should therefore recognise the complaint of the Opposition and address himself to it. Perhaps it is his reluctance in this area that is at the very root of the Opposition's protest.

CSO: 3298/118

DEPUTY GOVERNOR WATKINS RESIGNS; REPLACEMENT NAMED

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 28 Oct 82 p 1

[Text] Deputy Governor Brian Watkins is to be replaced at the end of January after just over a year in the post.

The announcement came in a terse statement from Governor Sir Richard Posnett last night which gave no hint of why 49-year-old Mr Watkins was leaving.

Both Sir Richard and Mr Watkins have in recent weeks strenuously denied speculation that the deputy would be going soon, with Mr Watkins describing such reports as "garbled" and "inaccurate."

A three-sentence Government Press statement on behalf of the Governor directed all queries to Sir Richard. But he refused to answer any questions about Mr Watkins' sudden departure. Mr Watkins could not be contacted and it was not known if he was on the Island.

The Premier, the Hon John Swan, said he did not know why Mr Watkins was leaving, and a spokesman for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London could not provide any further clues.

Mr Watkins arrived in Bermuda on October 25 last year, taking up his appointment as deputy to the Governor a week later.

His last speech--to the Sandys Rotary Club a few weeks ago--was given on condition that Press would not be allowed in. While here he has played a role in the planning stages of the newly-formed Bermuda Council on International Affairs with Dr David Saul and Royal Gazette Editor Mr David L. White.

Before coming to Bermuda, Mr Watkins worked at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London where he was responsible for dealings with the Ministry of Defence on issues which affected foreign policy.

He is to be replaced by Mr J.M.A. Herdman, presently working at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who is married with three children. Mr Herdman is a career diplomat who has previously served in Jordan, Malawi, Zambia and Saudi Arabia.

CSO: 3298/119

UNION NEWSPAPER NOTES DISSATISFACTION WITH PLP LEADERSHIP

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 21 Oct 82 p 5

[Text]

P.L.P. leaders have been attacked for "dictatorial tendencies" in the Workers Voice — the newspaper of the Bermuda Industrial Union which normally strongly supports the party.

The political correspondent of the paper has based the claim on a charge that Progressive Labour Party leaders are adverse to criticism.

This public expression of dissatisfaction with the P.L.P. is surprising since the Opposition enjoys a wide degree of support from B.I.U. and both organisations prefer to keep their disputes private.

The correspondent, who is not identified, does not name any P.L.P. leaders. Neither does the writer reveal what has given rise to the claim.

The correspondent says: "It is obvious that both the P.L.P. and their followers have lost sight of the basic role of a popular political party, if they do not recognise the people's right to criticise."

"In any non-dictatorial society, the political party is meant to serve merely as a vehicle for the interests of the people as a whole."

"The party and its leaders have no real significance in themselves, if they are both geared to pursue the interests of the people, rather than their own ends."

"To the extent that P.L.P. leaders react to criticism as being personal, or perceive

constructive criticism (especially from their own supporters) as being unjustified, they are displaying dictatorial, rather than democratic tendencies.

"And they will also be cutting themselves off from the very lifeblood of political success: the quality of performance encouraged by an accountability to criticism, the infusion of fresh ideas through broad participation and the confidence and self-belief which the passion of team spirit inevitably instills."

"Of course, no one likes to be criticised, but certain fields of endeavour necessarily involve criticism and persons entering them must expect to be the subject of public and private scrutiny."

"The P.L.P. will never be a truly viable party, in the long term, if its followers are docile and its leaders cut off from their contributions and criticism."

"Indeed, the present Government is only in power today, because the P.L.P. is not perceived by the majority of voters as a truly viable party. And both the party and its supporters must take the blame for that."

"But until the average Bermudian is ready to get as involved politically as passionately as he gets involved socially, and is as willing to vote for the P.L.P. as he is to bet on Cup Match, our community will continue to be run by those who neither fear themselves nor power."

UNION LEADER AGAINST DEPENDING ON U.S.

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 7 Oct 82 p 9

[Interview with Ricardo Thompson, member of the ruling National Liberation Party and Secretary General of the Costa Rican Confederation of Democratic Workers, by Gustavo Ruz: "Depending on the U.S. Has Been Catastrophic for Our Countries"; date and place not specified]

[Text] The need for "structural changes" to deal with the ills of Costa Rican society was affirmed by Ricardo Thompson, member of the ruling National Liberation Party and secretary general of the Costa Rican Confederation of Democratic Workers, in an exclusive interview with EL NUEVO DIARIO.

Thompson showed himself to be a firm supporter of detente between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and, in spite of the fact that he voiced criticism of our country's trade unionists, he went so far as to suggest the possibility that Costa Rican union leaders could visit their Nicaraguan counterparts for an on-location lesson in what happens in a revolution and then, by means of understanding between workers, promote a better understanding in relations between government leaders.

In a long interview, which we had to abridge for our readers, Thompson reflected on the economic crisis that has hurt the countries of Central America and on the role of the workers in finding the way out of that crisis.

EL NUEVO DIARIO stated to Thompson its doubts that this crisis could be resolved favorably for our countries within the framework of imperialistic dependence. Here is his response:

Thompson: "In the Malvinas Islands [conflict], we saw for ourselves that the United States is not a friend of Latin America. We had known that for some time, but that situation demonstrated right before our eyes that, as

Latin Americans, they think we are only good for exploiting; we give them all our resources, without their being concerned about our well-being. Latin America's dependence on the United States has been catastrophic. This is aggravated by the fact that not only do they not limit themselves to imposing conditions for trading and exploiting our resources, but they also impose, in every country, governments that are harmful to the interests of the people.

They make use of that power that they have in every country, even using it to destabilize governments trying to rescue their countries' sovereignty, such as Guatemala, Chile, and Cuba itself. Well, I am not saying that I fully agree with what is going on in Cuba, but their trying to act independently of the United States, while at the same time confronting that tremendous blockade, helped the Cuban Revolution to overcome problems such as illiteracy, public health, etc.

That is why I am telling you that we must break that noose of dependence around our necks and also put an end to that lack of solidarity between sister nations. Remember that during the Malvinas Islands crisis, most of the countries of Latin America limited themselves to verbal solidarity. The United States has always been concerned with stoking the fires of the border conflicts between our countries. Moreover, in a very astute way, they have been able to enthrone and topple governments.

EL NUEVO DIARIO: But President Reagan promised to give all his support to the current government of Costa Rica to bring about its economic recovery. What has come of those promises?

Thompson: Just fairy tales. They talked about sending us a series of economic resources that as yet have not arrived. I think that if Costa Rica were embroiled in a war, we would have already received many "Phantom" jets, tanks, and the like, all worth much more than the large debt that we have. But the United States is not interested in solving the social problems of each nation, but rather with solving war-related problems, so that it can maintain its hegemony over Latin America. And our people are now having to deal with basic problems such as hunger, joblessness, and others. But this does not interest them. On the other hand, if there were going to be a revolution here, the United States would then spend all it has to keep the kind of government they want in this country.

EL NUEVO DIARIO: Could we say that the Syms Amendment fits in along those lines?

Thompson: Yes. I feel that, with that amendment, they are going the wrong way. What happened in the past is not as easily repeated in the present. But they, when they see that things are beginning to get out of their hands, are then ready to crush any people to impose their hegemony. And we can see what is happening in Lebanon. Despite the fact that Israel is having serious economic problems domestically, such as its skyrocketing inflation, the United States always gives them a hand.

EL NUEVO DIARIO: And if the United States continues in that direction, and that intervention actually takes place, what position will the Costa Rican Confederation of Democratic Workers adopt?

Thompson: As I already stated, I believe that the workers must abandon the posture of limiting itself to demanding higher wages, or lower shopping basket prices, and also think about the political process. We must think that we can take the reins of power and manage the government apparatus also. Do not leave this in the hands of others, who will only solve their own problems and those of the small cliques they represent. We must prepare ourselves for a much more revolutionary process in this country. We must think along the lines of structural changes. Know what to do and who takes command in case of a breakdown of constitutional authority. Will we leave the power in the hands of the Right? Or will we, the workers, try to take it to assure permanent stability for the people of Costa Rica?

I would not want to speculate on a possible intervention, but you can be sure that many of our fellows continue to think that Costa Rica is a very calm country and that nothing will change. I would venture to say that we the workers are not prepared in case the Right should decide to take power.

EL NUEVO DIARIO: What do you propose in view of that possibility?

Thompson: We must prepare. Here, every social sector has to assume its responsibility. Of course, our chief of state, Luis Alberto, being the good man that he is because of his trade union background, has tried to maintain a policy of consensus, but in times of crisis, all groups assume their responsibilities. And I feel that in those times, we the workers must assume ours. I cannot be trying to help the oligarchy that has always exploited the workers. It has never worried about the problems of society or taken it upon itself to help the poor and the hungry. And in that crisis, our leader should take his place at the side of the people, the majority, and take the helm and pilot us to a safe haven. At times there is a lot of confusion surrounding the word "democracy," and one begins to doubt whether or not it exists. And within the framework of democracy, it is often necessary to take a firm hand, and even though the rich cry, the decision must be made, and we cannot say: "Well, we shall see if the rich agree with this or not."

Rather, I feel that the ills of Costa Rican society can only be dealt with by means of a process of structural changes.

EL NUEVO DIARIO: But such changes could have a very harmful effect on the interests of the oligarchy.

Thompson: Sure it could hurt their interests. But I think that a head of state like Luis Alberto Monge and the National Liberation Party, if they devoted themselves to governing for the majority, would then have a lot of support in this country. The oligarchy is strong because of its money, but it is weaker in terms of numbers. And if the government decides to make the

decisions required in this emergency, in favor of the people, then it will have the support of the people. And if it does not, then it will have the support of the rich, and that means that the antagonism will grow, and things could take a radical turn here too.

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CSO: 3248/175

ECONOMIC BASIS OF SOCIALISM EXPLAINED TO MILITARY

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 42, 21 Oct 82 pp 14-15

/Article by Lt Col Juan Ibanez Lopez: "In Support of the Political Education of Sergeants, Soldiers and Sailors: Essence and Methods of Socialist Industrialization"

/Text/ The creation of the material and technical foundation of socialism presupposes mechanized and highly developed production, endowed with vanguard equipment along with a high level of concentration and specialization. The basis of all this is social ownership of the fundamental means of production.

Industrialization--in other words, industrial development and heavy industry above all, and reorganization of the entire national economy--is the principal method of creating the material and social foundation of socialism.

Industrialization is an inevitable task of every country that is building socialism.

Essence of Socialist Industrialization

Lenin was the first in history to propose a plan for the building of socialism and he scientifically outlined the course toward socialist industrialization. Its principal point is accelerated development of the big socialist industry and transformation of the country's economy based on modern mechanization equipment.

Productive forces grow during the development of socialist industrialization. At the same time, a number of socio-economic tasks and problems of extraordinary importance are resolved; the socialist sector is expanded and consolidated; the new production functions are perfected; and the working class grows in numbers as well as in organization and qualification, while also increasing its specific importance within the country's population.

Industrialization expands the prospects of the socialist state to raise the material well-being of the population, and it helps to strengthen the country's defensive capability and to resolve other tasks of a social nature.

The Socialist Industrialization Method

When focusing on the problem of industrialization, it is necessary to clarify that both the capitalist and socialist systems of production are involved in industrialization.

In capitalist countries, the process started with the development of the light industry, and only after a long time was heavy industry development started. On the other hand, socialism starts with development of the heavy industry because this helps to save time and to resolve the problem of reconstruction of the entire national economy in a short time based on high technology.

It is known that Cuba is on the path of building the material and technical foundation of socialism. At the same time, it has the principal task of development and promotion of the economy and industrialization of the country, according to our party platform. It is necessary to make clear that because of the existence of the powerful world socialist system, our country has been able to start industrialization without first having to resort to development of a heavy industry. The latter would have required high production of energy, metals, coal, oil, machinery and construction materials, which are indispensable for development of a heavy industry capable of producing means of production, in other words, factories to build factories.

Capitalist industrialization follows a spontaneous course because of the lust for higher profits of private owners. In socialism, the process responds to the law of harmonious and proportional development, as a premise for building communism and satisfying the growing demands of workers for articles of use and consumption. In order to observe that law, our socialist state establishes, in a planned manner, the proportions of distribution of work and means of production among the country's economic branches. This will permit full realization of socialist industrialization.

Capitalist industrialization reinforces exploitation of the working class and peasants, deepens contradictions between the city and countryside, and brings about the domination and plundering of colonial nations through the foreign capital invested in the principal sectors of the national industry.

"...During the 1970-78 period, the total flow of direct investments of these monopolies in the underdeveloped countries amounted to \$42.2 billion. Over the same period, between \$100 million and \$218 million in repatriated profits were returned by transnational companies to their countries of origin..." Over the cited period, an average of \$2.40 were extracted in the form of repatriated profit for every new dollar invested in the underdeveloped countries.

This makes quite clear the principal sources that have led to the immense development of an extremely small group of capitalist countries (the so-called developed capitalist countries).

1. Fidel Castro Ruz: Inauguration of Second Congress of Association of Third World Economists.

On the other side are the countries of the so-called Third World. These are underdeveloped nations that live under the yoke of capitalist domination and are part of the imperialist colonial system made up of colonies, neocolonies and dependent countries.

The principal source of socialist industrialization is the maximum effective and careful employment of the internal resources of each socialist country, above all, the heroic work of the popular masses inspired by the ideals of socialism.

It is clear that concentration of the fundamental means of production in the hands of the socialist state--direct representative of all the people--facilitates their use with greater efficiency for the benefit of industrialization, allocating most of them to development of the key branches of the economy: energy, building of machinery, chemical industry, agriculture, transportation, and so forth.

"The principal task of industrialization in Cuba--states the platform--consists of creating the internal basis necessary for systematic development of the productive forces; supplying the equipment and materials to industry itself, to agriculture and to livestock; raising export resources; replacing imports and producing assorted articles of vast consumption by the population.*

Development of sugar production has to play a role of the first order to fulfill this extremely important task. Such development will permit development of the bagasse pulp and paper industry, the artificial lumber panels industry, yeast for livestock feed, and so forth.

At the same time, other industries to be expanded are energy, for which the installation of new capacities will be required; iron and steel; and chemical, particularly fertilizers, petrochemistry of plastics, and glass and tires production.

Other sectors of planned expansion are pharmaceutical products and medical equipment, textile, footwear, foodstuffs and fishing industry.

Concurrently with our country's industrial development, our party guides economic activity toward the production of durable consumer goods, housing construction; educational, public health and social works; and urbanization of rural areas.

Development will continue of freight and passenger transportation, communications and agricultural-livestock transformations, as well as quality standardization and control mechanisms, beautification of the principal urban centers, and so forth.

Intensive work is being done in the social sector to raise the income of the population by applying the socialist principle of distribution according to the quantity and quality of work and by a gradual increase of that part of the budget allocated to social funds.

2. PCC Platform. Thesis and Resolution, Page 62. Published by DOR /Revolutionary Orientation Department/, Havana, 1976.

The international socialist division of work plays an important role under current conditions. It permits each CEMA-member country to concentrate its primary attention on development of its natural resources.

Within this context, our country is directing its efforts at the development of the sugar industry, extraction and processing of nickel, organization of cellulose production from residues of sugarcane processing, textile and food industries, and other types of production.

It should be emphasized that according to the postulates of the fundamental economic law of socialism, socialist industrialization assures a solid material foundation for the uninterrupted growth of production, based on superior technology, without lockout or unemployment. This permits constant increased production of consumer goods and a systematic increase of the material and cultural level of the society.

Unemployment, hunger, poverty and insecurity about the future exist in capitalist countries as the inevitable consequences of the antagonistic forces inherent in a private property system.

In spite of the experiments of bourgeois theoreticians and politicians, these contradictions are increasingly worsening and already have reached unbearable levels.

The United States--the world's most developed capitalist country--currently has approximately 10 million unemployed, England has more than 3 million, and in Italy the figure exceeds 2 million, the worst of the postwar period.

While capitalism is wrapped up in its crisis, our small country continues its growing march toward socialist industrialization, without unemployment or poverty, despite the economic difficulties derived from the current world situation and the hostile policy of U.S. imperialist circles.

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MID-TERM U.S. ELECTIONS, REAGAN'S POLICY EXAMINED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 21 Oct 82 No 42 pp 16-17

/Commentary by Elpidio Valdivia: "U.S. Elections; Reagan: The Ones Who Are Going To Lose Salute You"/

/Text/ The most interesting angle of the upcoming U.S. elections is to learn the extent to which the American people will settle accounts with Ronald Reagan.

Since about 2 months ago, all U.S. public opinion polls agree on predicting that the ruling party in the White House will suffer a setback in the 2 November elections.

The House of Representatives, a third of the Senate, most of the governorships and thousands of municipal posts will be renewed on that date.

The grave economic situation which the nation is experiencing has been singled out as the main cause of the massive opposition to current government policy.

According to news media organs of the most diverse ideological trends, 20 months after Reagan's arrival in the presidency the U.S. people are facing the most anguishing socio-economic situation of the past 40 years.

As part of his desperate efforts to prevent an eventual electoral slap in the face, Reagan last Saturday asked the country's 11-million unemployed to "hold on," to support the government and to pay no attention to the democrats.

Speaking from the lavish Camp David presidential residence, the U.S. president believed that "the time has come for confidence and courage."

He then added that "things are improving and without the help of those who howl like dogs."

Three days earlier, the president asserted in a speech given ample television coverage that "the United States is on the road of recovery and the world knows it."

However, Reagan admitted being concerned that "the dark cloud of unemployment hangs over the lives of 11 million of our neighbors and friends."

The former Hollywood actor then referred to a letter sent to him by a woman named Judith, from Selma, Alabama, in which she mentioned the lack of job opportunities in her area.

According to the letter revealed by Reagan, the tenebrous ghost of unemployment prevented Judith from sleeping at night.

"We need to speak to you, to believe that you hear us," said in one of its parts the letter disclosed by Reagan, and as he finished reading it, he said with a shaken look: "Judith, I hear you."

The Democratic Party's reply to the U.S. president's speech was left primarily to Senator Donald Riegle. He stressed that current government policy has led to the highest level of unemployment, a larger number of business bankruptcies and of the farming sector, and to an unprecedented federal budget deficit.

Riegle contrasted this gloomy panorama with the official intention of building an additional 17,000 nuclear weapons, a position which he termed "senseless" at a time when it is not advisable to make such fabulous military expenditures.

Explaining the reason for such aberration and irresponsibility in handling public affairs, the democratic legislator said:

"Perhaps it is because more than a third of the top officials in the Reagan Administration are millionaires and cannot understand how life is for the common people."

In this regard, the chairman of the Democratic Party, Charles Mamatt, was of the opinion that Reagan is "dissociated" from the hard daily reality in which most of the U.S. people live.

Commenting on the latter, the Spanish news agency EFE reported from Washington last Thursday that "the president's efforts to paint an optimistic picture of the status of economic prospects not only threaten his own credibility in the eyes of the voters, they also increase public skepticism toward his party's candidates."

The Madrid news agency then added:

"Reagan's possible loss of credibility in the eyes of the voters could have even more serious effects if, as many predict, the choice of the voters who are not identified with either party depends on the trust which the president's words inspires in them."

As if responding to this evaluation, the British newspaper THE GUARDIAN commented in London that the alleged optimism expressed by Reagan is shared only by a minority of his countrymen.

In fact, according to the results of the latest public opinion poll, 61 percent of the U.S. people believe that their current situation is worse than it was 20 months ago when Reagan made his entry in the White House.

This poll, sponsored by the WASHINGTON POST and the ABC television network, also showed that 69 percent of those polled believe that Ronald Reagan should start to be concerned about the poor.

Asked which of the two parties, with their economic program, represents the "greatest threat" for the nation, 57 percent said the Republican Party because of its aid to the rich and budget cuts for social programs.

The capitalist news agencies cautioned last week that the increasingly more generalized belief that the democrats represent "the least of two evils," along with the bitter results of Reagan's economic plan, could be translated into a 60-percent electoral advantage for the democrats.

They explained, however, that the organizers of the latest opinion polls have tried to quantify this advantage on the possible number of seats that the democrats may win in the House of Representatives.

Referring to the aforementioned WASHINGTON POST and ABC poll taken less than 3 weeks from the elections, some observers called attention to one of the points that will play a key role in the upcoming elections.

They recalled that some 64 percent of those polled harshly criticized the Reagan Administration's position toward unemployment, a subject that is at the top of the concerns of the U.S. people.

The U.S. Department of Labor reported a few days ago that in the last week of September another 695,000 people requested unemployment compensation because they had lost their jobs. This indicates that the rate of unemployment, which in September affected 11.3 million people, could go on rising.

Furthermore, the Labor Department reported that in that same month 6.6 million workers were forced to work half a day--or a few hours a day--because they could not find jobs with regular hours.

The same press sources have said that if, for example, the democrats were to win 20 seats in the House of Representatives, it would mean an objective political setback for the Reagan Administration.

But, they added, if that figure is even higher--which some observers of U.S. events do not rule out--the recovery could then depend on the future policy to be followed by the White House, because the new legislative weight of the democrats would force a greater balance on the formulation of national and foreign policy of the U.S. Government.

In November 1980, almost 2 years ago, some people evaluated Reagan's victory as a turn to the right of the U.S. people, instead of the result of a negative vote to a given situation.

However, the growing popular resistance to these past 20 months of ill-advised policy tends to refute that evaluation.

For that same reason, it appears that as a result of this upcoming electoral settlement of accounts, the Republican Party's worn out legislative hosts are going to enter through the narrow door of the capitol in Washington.

And as they pass in front of their president, they might recall a certain passage in the history of the ancient Roman Empire and say:

Reagan, the ones who are going to lose salute you.

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MTT DIVISION ORGANIZED IN VILLA CLARA

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 21 Oct 82 No 42 p 54

/Article by Orestes Carballo D. in collaboration with the Central Army's newspaper EN GUARDIA/

/Text/ This day, 10 October 1982, is doubly beautiful. It is beautiful because of the glorious commemoration of the beginning of our independence wars. It is also beautiful because of the solemn ceremony which Villa Clara's militia units are holding outside Sandino Stadium.

The image of the Heroic Guerrilla /Che Guevara/ which recalls his presence during the battle of Santa Clara, and an excerpt of his letter to Fidel: "perform the most sacred of duties: to fight against imperialism wherever it might be," give splendor to the dais.

A green-blue sea of gallant, disciplined and militant militiamen covers the area on one side of Sandino Stadium on whose surrounding area hundreds of people have gathered.

That green-blue sea is an integral part of that tremendous force about which the commander in chief has spoken when referring to the Territorial Troops Militia /MTT/.

The 310th Division is made up of 67 percent workers, 7 percent peasants, some 21 percent students and the rest are housewives, retirees and intellectuals.

Fifty-four percent of this unit have had combat experience and 92 percent of its command cadres have taken various officer training course.

Patriotic and solemn, this Sunday morning becomes more significant when the Central Army Band plays the glorious notes of the Bayamo Anthem, and the commander of troops, Col Guido Santana Monzon, receives the combat flag from Div Gen Ulises Rosales del Toro, member of the Party Central Committee, first deputy to the FAR minister and chief of the EMG /General Staff/.

Moments later, the combat flag of the MTT's 310th Division, a symbol of honor, heroism and military glory, flies alongside the national flag.

Immediately thereafter and always to the music of the symbolic march, the regimental commanders receive the colors of their respective units.

The "vivas" of militia men and women, as each flag is presented, expand through the air and make the ceremony even more splendid. The ceremony ends with the vibrant words of militiaman Pedro Garcia Guerra, Villa Clara Party First Secretary Raul Rodriguez Lopez and Div Gen Ulises Rosales del Toro.

Thus, Villa Clara has founded, organized and registered its first MTT division.

With that militia force will clash the enemy that may try to occupy a house, a factory, a strip of land or a town on this part of the historic territory which Fidel has called Invincible Bulwark of the Revolution.

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UJC, FEU MODEL STUDENT LEADER DISCUSSES CAREER

Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 19 Oct 82 p 6

/Report on interview with Olga Maria Ocejá Bory, member of the UJC National Bureau and director of the FEU, by Minerva Hernandez; date and place not specified/

/Text/ "This high distinction they have conferred upon me represents an incomparable stimulus for me; I do not think I shall be able to express my true feelings inasmuch as, on this sort of occasion, one's emotions make that impossible." This was the statement Olga Mariz Ocejá Bory made recently upon receiving the Jose Antonio Echeverría medal given to her by the State Council.

She also said that, aside from the intrinsic value of the decoration, she could not have been able to obtain it without the effort made by a considerable group of her companeros in her overall training.

This young lady, only 22 years of age and now a member of the National Bureau of the UJC /Union of Young Communists/, has her sights set high, and this distinguishes her as a young revolutionary of our times.

She began her studies in Remedios, a city in Villa Clara Province, and soon distinguished herself through her work as a leader of the FEEM /Federation of Middle School Students/ from the rank-and-file level to that of provincial secretary of the student organization in 1976.

"At the Central University of Las Villas," she said, "I specialized in architecture and completed the course satisfactorily."

During her life as a university student, she held several positions in the FEU /Federation of University Students/ and UJC at the advanced study center; some of her more noteworthy positions were organizational secretary of the UJC University Committee, member of the National Council of the FEU and its chairman in Villa Clara Province.

In 1976, when she was pursuing her preuniversity studies, she was appointed a delegate to the Municipal Assembly of the People's Government in her municipality, Remedios.

In her overall training as an adolescent, Olga Maria Ocejja participated in amateur cultural activities such as theatrical projects, choruses, dancing and martial study units.

She also contributed to the area of sports through the practice of artistic gymnastics for which she received a diploma of distinction in 1973.

"I attended all the sports schools," Olga Maria said, "as well as doing productive work during the vacation periods; I was considered an outstanding monitor for which I received the Manuel Ascunce Domenech diploma and, at the university, I formed the Assistant Student Movement."

But, despite the many tasks she carried out, she did not neglect her most important duty: her devotion to her studies. Due to her excellent educational performance coupled with her broad range of activity, she was chosen National Vanguard Leader of the FEEM for two consecutive school terms and, simultaneously, National Vanguard Leader of the FEU.

As a guest, she attended the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students and the First Youth Festival of Cuban-Soviet Friendship in the USSR; she was a delegate to the First Provincial Assembly of the People's Government and a direct delegate to the Fourth Congress of the UJC.

Now that her formal education is completed, she says that, in the new skills she will learn as a worker either in political or people's organizations or in activities associated with her specialization, she will keep in mind the need to work more and better so that her efforts will contribute to the development of our revolutionary process.

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CSO: 3248/204

BRIEFS

SOVIET GEOLOGISTS AIDING EXPLORATION--Mantua--AIN--Soviet and Cuban specialists are working to determine as accurately as possible the geological structure of the Pinar del Rio area, the country's westernmost region. The project is part of the cooperation agreement with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA), and in its first phase it will be extended to the entire province, subsequently including Havana, Havana City and Matanzas; the western CEMA unit, subordinate to the provincial geological enterprise, is in charge of the project. Irguis Khusainov, the project's geophysical engineer, explained that a map is being made on a scale of 1:50,000 and pointed out that the work of topography, drilling, geology, geophysics and geochemistry is being carried out at the modern facilities of the base in this municipality. "Almost all of Cuba's useful minerals," he added, "are found in this area; hence, the importance of the project with regard to the country's economic development. Aleksandrovich Kachenko, chief engineer of drilling, recalled the upcoming 65th anniversary of the October Revolution and the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR, both of which are providing a greater stimulus for the accomplishment of this year's plan with maximum efficiency. He also pointed out that each Soviet specialist is working with a Cuban technician with whom he is sharing his knowledge of new labor techniques and methods and that this is contributing to the country's development. In conclusion, he said that the modern drillings they are making will make it possible to reach depths of 800 meters, thus probing the subsoil in places never before explored. /Text/ /Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 19 Oct 82 p 4/ 8568

CSO: 3248/204

FARMERS UNION STIFFENS OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT BANANA PLAN

Review of Government Aims

Bridgetown CARIBBEAN SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 31 Oct 82 p 4

[Article by Peter Richards]

[Text]

Roseau Dominica Saturday (CANA) — THE DOMINICAN Government is embarking on an ambitious plan under which it proposes to hand over to the producers the running of the ailing banana industry — the island's chief foreign exchange earner.

The move by the Government, which administers the privately-owned banana industry through a statutory board followed the rejection of some of Dominica's appeals to prospective foreign donors for aid to restore the hurricane-wrecked industry to good health.

"The aid donors said they will not put money in unless they could see the industry becoming the responsibility of the growers. They said that the growers must show that they are prepared to take over the responsibility," Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles said.

The government has been trying to sell the idea to farmers through a series of meetings across this small, mountainous Caribbean island, with the campaign receiving a mixed reception.

"I think that from the growers, the reaction has been favourable, Miss Charles said during a radio programme, "but at every meeting there has been some

ex-politician or politician that would be that has come up with some idea that we should not do it now, we should delay it..."

The plan is to set up a company to take over the duties of the Dominica Banana Growers' Association (DBGA) which government backbencher Senator Meshack Linton chairs. Initially, the growers would have a limited role in the company, but in the long run they would own the shares and appoint the board to look after their affairs, government officials explained.

The banana industry is Dominica's major source of foreign exchange. Government officials say 70 per cent of all the hard currency the former British colony collects comes through the industry. Its contribution to the gross domestic product is 20 per cent.

Less than the best management, devastation of the industry by hurricanes in 1979 and 1980, and a 1979 outbreak of leafspot disease have contributed to the virtual demise of the vital industry.

There has been a major new aid package — the writing off by the Government of EC\$4 million in advances to the association, and the US Government's allocation of a

EC\$4.7 million grant. But the banana industry is still unlikely to become viable before June 1984 according to Miss Charles.

A government-appointed task force headed by Dr. Bernard Yankey of the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) investigated the problem-plagued industry and estimated its indebtedness at nearly EC\$21 million.

From the beginning of this month a total of EC\$58 000 in interest on the loans acquired by the association to keep the industry afloat will become payable, industry officials reported.

Britain has been a main source of aid to the industry, and British officials have expressed some concern about the administrative system under which it operates.

Michael Didier, who works with the industry under a British-sponsored five-year development project, admitted that London would like to see a commercial company running the banana sector.

He said the Growers' Association did not seem to fully understand the functions of the industry, with the result that there was "a lot of misunderstanding..."

"The industry has grown and I don't think the (present) type of structure has been able to cope with the pressures that have come up on it," he explained. "You need a very modern system of management."

In its final report, the task force had also commented on the way the industry should be run. It said: "We have no doubt that a re-organised banana industry, producing quality fruits... a business-oriented board of management paying par-

ticular attention to sound pricing, among others" will assist in the overall development of the financially plagued industry.

The Dominica Farmers' Union (DFU), which has about 2 500 members, has told banana growers to treat the government plan cautiously until they have a clear picture of its implications. But the National Workers Union (NWU) a relatively small body, charged that the Government's plan to phase out the growers' Association "must be seriously questioned."

"Although there is a DBGA with Government's aid to manage the industry," the union said, "We all know of the immense hardship endured not only by people involved in the industry, but also the entire nation."

"The farmers must now ask themselves: 'Are they more capable to handle the industry than the government they voted into power to look after the affairs of the industry, the mainstay of the economy?'"

The union charged that dissolution of the association which receives and takes charge of exports of the local fruit would result in several workers losing their jobs.

But government officials say they view their plan for the industry as the only one that will help it become financially viable.

In the meantime, higher export prices are apparently spurring Dominicans to grow more bananas. Senator Linton said there was a rush by farmers to get back into production because of the good prices.

Bananas are exported to Britain at 374 pounds sterling per long ton, with local growers being paid a

minimum of 17 EC cents for every pound of the fruit sold to the association.

For the first eight months of this year, Dominica shipped just over 16 000 long tons of bananas to Britain,

representing a drop of almost 2 000 tons on the January-August period last year.

The industry now produces about 650 tons of bananas a week. Government officials say that it needs to produce at least 1 000 tons a week if it is to make headway in solving its problems.

Although the industry has been able to muster some assistance from the British, the Canadians, the CDB, the U.S. and local commercial banks, "it is necessary that we make a strong and viable industry, which the grower understands is his and understands (how) to run," Miss Charles said.

She added: "It is obvious to the aid donors in government that there are many more things the grower himself could do in the industry that would therefore cut down the expenditure and leave a little bit more in the pocket of the grower."

Agriculture Minister, Hesketh Alexander has told farmers: "We want to keep the industry, at least for a while, but the length of time will depend solely on you and how you will want it to serve you."

To the Government the industry has been something of a financial burden. The government estimated it had spent EC\$18 million on the industry between 1980 and 1982, part of it to cover purchases and insurance compensation.

That, Government officials said, was an expense the poor island could hardly afford.

Union Objections

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 29 Oct 82 p 3

[Text]

ROSEAU, Dominica, Thursday, (CANA) — The Dominica Farmers Union (DFU, grouping some 2500 farmers here yesterday warned of the possibility of mass demonstrations if government goes ahead with its plans to hand over responsibility for the running of the vital banana industry to a private company in a proposed reorganisation scheme.

DFU said it was seeking a meeting with government, officials of the Dominica Amalgamated Workers Union, the Dominica Banana Growers Association and other key agricultural personnel connected with the industry to discuss the issue. It added it would like the meeting to be held no later than the second week of November.

Government announced recently it was planning to reorganise the industry, which is faced with serious financial difficulties, and had proposed the establishment of a new company to take over from state supported Dominica Banana Growers Association.

Prime Minister Eugenia Charles and other government officials have been going all over the island putting their case to the farmers, before introducing the legislation that would give effect to the reorganisational plans.

But speaking at news conference here yesterday, DFU General Secretary Richard Charles said his union was deeply disturbed by the manner in which government contemplated the change.

Government is proposing legislation whereby a private company to include the farmers as shareholders will be set up to take over the running of the industry from the DGBA. Prime Minister Eugenia Charles and other government officials have been moving through the island spelling out their case to the farmers before taking the measures to Parliament.

But the union says it wants a meeting with government and all parties connected with the industry before the second week in November to discuss the reorganisation plans.

Under the planned set-up, DFU General Secretary Charles said "even the Board and Management must be acceptable" to the United States, arguing that under such circumstances, the industry would be in foreign hands.

"We must vehemently oppose the privatisation of the vital banana industry which is and for the foreseeable future will continue to be the lifeblood of the local economy," he added.

Meanwhile a group of farmers in the north of the island — where the bulk of Dominica's bananas come from — has passed a resolution requesting government to "set aside the intended proposals until such time that the intended change can be thoroughly gone into and studied and that banana growers ... decide for themselves whether the proposed change is acceptable."

The resolution, signed by some 51 farmers, was presented to government by a three-member delegation late Tuesday.

CSO: 3298/120

GOVERNMENT ACCUSES ROLDOS OF INCITING OPPOSITION DURING CRISIS

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 21 Oct 82 p A 3

[Excerpts] The national government, through its policy minister, Galo Garcia, yesterday accused Leon Roldos, vice president of the republic, of taking advantage of the current political and economic circumstances to incite opposition in his statements against the measures adopted by President Osvaldo Hurtado.

Minister Garcia asserted that there is in the country at this time a climate of social unrest which is of some concern not only to the government, but also to the various sectors of the Ecuadorean people.

After explaining that calm had been restored yesterday in some cities, he emphasized that unrest continues in other places, where there is still the threat of violence and attacks on persons and property.

At this time, he said, the country is in a state of anxiety caused by the premeditated moves being undertaken by some leaders, taking advantage of the people's demands in order to transform the constitutional government into a de facto government.

This, he argued, is not possible, because it has cost Ecuador dearly to return to a constitutional regime, the legal basis for a state of law. We are obliged, he added, to take all necessary measures, both prudent and energetic, to defend the Ecuadorean people, personal property and that of the state and its institutions and to preserve Ecuador's legal and constitutional character.

He emphasized that there is no doubt that the government has had to go through a difficult situation, not only because of the remedies or measures it has wholeheartedly adopted, but also because of the huge deficits in the things Ecuador needs, education, health, drinking water, sewer systems and operational needs, which are very great, while the country's potential is limited and, obviously, we must multiply our efforts to be able to attend to all those needs.

However, he said, many leaders, taking advantage of these circumstances, are raising a chorus of opposition just to force Ecuador to fall into a situation

which, in defense of the constitutional government, harmony and social peace, cannot be permitted.

He argued that the fact that the vice president of the republic, Leon Roldos, has once again come out with statements opposed to, or critical of, the measures adopted, as he has done on other occasions, can mean nothing else.

He recalled that in the case of electric power, Roldos began a challenge which was developed by engineer Leon Febres Cordero; in the case of sugar he got legislator Jaime Hurtado to raise an inquiry. Now, he said, it concerns hydrocarbons, for the purpose of sowing the necessary seeds of unrest within the country, and in this way to explain away some apparently legal action and from this point on joining other political sectors in Ecuador.

Indeed, he added, Febres Cordero himself called the country's attention to the statements made by the vice president of the republic. A coincidence in the chorus of opposition. He emphasized this, he said, because both belong to opposition political parties and in this case there is a clear coincidence between these positions and the intent to cause unrest, creating skepticism and lack of trust with respect to the measures adopted by the government after having made detailed studies.

He explained that none of the measures was adopted overnight, as another member of the opposition, Mr Velez of the Chamber of Industries, charges. He emphasized that it was necessary to implement the measures at a given moment. He recalled that last May the Monetary Board presented to the president of the republic a plan for national economic recovery. Among the measures therein were those adopted by the government just last week, he said.

He complained that when nothing is done everyone asks why not, and when something is done, the opposition chorus organizes to produce a breeding ground in which, joined with the people's demands and spurred on with violence such as we saw last Tuesday, it hopes to cause a breakdown of the constitutional government. It thinks that in this way it can nudge the president of the republic toward a coup. But those leaders of the opposition or of union organizations--as in the case of Mr Chavez, with his statements of last Tuesday--are mistaken; in no way are they going to force the chief executive to give in to any kind of an act which is against the constitutional government. That is absurd and inadmissible, he exclaimed.

He pointed out that Ecuador is democratic by vocation. It is democratic, he added, by the vocation of the government and the Ecuadorean people and because the country's constitutional and legal status have been won at a high cost. He said that this mention of a coup shows lack of respect for the Ecuadorean Armed Forces. Therefore, Minister Garcia said, the national government rejects this falsehood. It is a lie which indeed is intended to undermine respect for various institutions in Ecuador: the armed, legal and democratic institutions which are the foundations of order in the country.

I do not believe it is possible, he added, to continue calling on the mob, and at this time I would like to request the cooperation of the communications

media, since a few radio stations have been using their frequencies and their freedom of expression to call for attacks on the government or to organize demonstrations which are not acceptable within the framework of respect for human rights to which we all have access.

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CSO: 3348/64

MULTIPARTY LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION PRESIDENT RESIGNS

Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Oct 82 p 1 A

[Text] The Multiparty Legislative Commission of the House of Representatives, formed to analyze and adopt a decision with respect to the severe social and economic crisis gripping the country, ran into its first obstacle a few hours after beginning its work, when CID [Democratic Institutional Coalition] legislator Otto Arosemena Gomez resigned from the presidency of that special parliamentary agency, arguing that certain sectors are trying to limit its sphere of activity and that--consequently--he is unable to carry out his work in that type of emotional climate.

The commission, made up of one legislator from each legislative bloc, began work Thursday afternoon after being named by the president of Parliament, Rodolfo Baquerizo, to make a calm and in-depth study of the difficult national situation, chiefly in the economic area, in order to permit the formation of a specific criterion with respect to the propriety of calling a special congress to repeal or modify the measures implemented recently by the government.

It appears that the first obstacle that slowed the normal workings of the commission was the fact that some of its members, chiefly legislators who side with the government, tried to limit its sphere of activity, holding that the multiparty agency could not consider the creation of new taxes or the state's budget proposal, since those fall into the exclusive jurisdiction of the Permanent Legislative Commission on Fiscal, Banking, Tax and Budget Matters.

Resignation Irrevocable

In a communication addressed yesterday to Liberal legislator Blasco Panaherrera Padilla, vice president of the Multiparty Commission, Dr Arosemena Gomez presented his irrevocable resignation from the presidency of that agency, expressing his appreciation of the distinction bestowed on him.

In his letter the legislator noted: "When I accepted membership on the commission I believed it would be an opportunity to give my support, however modest, to the overall study of the urgent economic and financial problems that are overwhelming the republic and which have produced a state of social upheaval recognized as such by the president of Ecuador when he declared the state of emergency and assumed extraordinary powers, for which he invoked

constitutional precepts." Continuing, he emphasized that "I believed that we should study the measures announced by the executive, the causes that motivated them and the results they have produced and will produce in the economic and social order, and that suggestions would be made which might clarify the picture and serve as a vehicle for the return of creative peace and harmonious coexistence within the Ecuadorean family of people."

Limited Sphere of Activity

In another part of his resignation, Dr Otto Orosemena Gomez said the following: "I am not going to make an analysis here of all the proposals submitted by the executive, since that would not be fitting, and I wanted to refer only to two, to demonstrate that they need an exhaustive analysis.

"Indeed, the subject of our study and analysis should be the measures adopted by the executive, the most socially burdensome and serious of these being the one establishing the new gasoline prices. I have proof that the president was poorly advised, and this he demonstrated in his televised speech as well as in one of his communications to the president of the Chamber of Representatives.

"However, the criterion expressed last evening in the first closed session of the commission was that we are not permitted to study budget matters, because they are the exclusive province of the Budget Commission of the honorable House; nor can we study proposed taxes, because they are the province of the Tax Commission of the honorable House, thus reducing our sphere of activity to little more than an expression of our opinions, a situation with which I could never agree as long as the people are shedding their blood in the streets and public squares of Ecuador and as long as anyone is trying to suffocate the explosion of popular sentiment with extreme measures and direct threats.

"For that reason, and with the greatest respect for the criterion of my distinguished colleagues, I have resolved to resign definitively from the commission, and I therefore present, through you as intermediary, my irrevocable resignation from my duties as president, and I request the president of the honorable House to call upon attorney Franklin Moreno Quezada, who has been designated alternate delegate by my party."

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CSO: 3348/64

DAILY CHARGES CORRUPTION IN ADMINISTRATION

Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Oct 82 p 4 A

[Editorial: "Can Country Live From Crisis to Crisis?"]

[Text] At the end of the tragic week through which the country has been forced to live as the result of the most unusual errors, apart from the deep collective feelings of grief for the victims of events which should not have occurred, nothing is more evident in the general consciousness than the recognition that, beyond daily and circumstantial factors, it is perfectly absurd to try to develop a national plan from crisis to crisis, the most obvious effect of which is to prevent the success of any sensible proposal for real development, condemning the popular multitudes to an existence which contradicts the most basic principles of human dignity.

Even disregarding the contradictory events which characterize the mandate of attorney Roldos Aguilera, in the midst of the sharpest disagreement over the management of serious economic, social and financial matters, one has only to glance at the 17 months prior to this date and one cannot help but realize that they represented the most chaotic and unjustifiable succession of work stoppages, ridiculous confrontations, pacts and "bad bargains" that ever dragged the public administration's dignity through the mud, along with its credibility with regard to its ever dubious abilities to improve the country's sad plight.

Actually, after suspensions of activity in the most far-flung places in Ecuador, there were the verbal skirmish--renewed at intervals--between the president and the vice president of the republic; the complaints from some officers in the Armed Forces; the haggling with CFP [Concentration of Popular Forces] over the juiciest bureaucratic sinecures; the secret monetary devaluation in March, accompanied by absurd prohibitions against importing a few goods; the open devaluation in May; the compromises concerning congressional dignity; the attempt to establish taxes on beer and cigarettes; the huge rise in gasoline prices; national strikes; etc.

The foregoing is not an exhaustive list, since such a list would not fit in the entire available space in the newspaper, particularly if it tried to include the most scandalous cases of government corruption, but it more than suffices to demonstrate that it is indispensable, with the greatest urgency,

wisdom and respect for constitutional norms, to define and particularly to apply formulas which will establish seriousness and austerity in government--not to be understood, of course, in the sense of reducing any salaries just a few weeks after having increased them--and if this does not set the patient Ecuadorean people on a course toward their true development (an aspiration which appears to be excessive, in view of the inefficiency of the administrators), at least it may prevent the appearance of dangers so great that they would mortgage the country for years and insuperably block access by the members of the national community to the just and progressive standards of living to which they have a perfect and undeniable right.

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CSO: 3348/64

TRINIDAD PAPER PUBLISHES NAMES OF POLITICAL DETAINEES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Nov 82 p 12

[Text]

THE "TRINIDAD GUARDIAN," in its support of the principles of human rights, will publish weekly, the names of detainees in Grenada, who are being held without trial.

The list is taken from the "Grenada News Letter". It may not be completely up-to-date, so we ask readers who may have information about the situation in Grenada, to write and let us know if any of those lifted here have been released, and if there are any in detention whose names we do not have on the list.

Following is the list of detainees: Raymond De Sousa, Norman De Sousa, Francis Jones, Kingston Baptiste, Tannil Clarke, Oliver Raeburn, Osbert James, Clinty Samuel, Dennis Rush, Terrence Jones, Donnally Patrick, Dalton Pope, Steadman Patrick, Lester De Sousa, Antonio (or Clement) Langdon, Hayes James, James Antoine, Winston Whyte, John Thomas, Stephen Cuffie, James Modeste, Twistleton Paterson, James Bowen, Wayne Lett, Matthew Antoine, Jerome Romain, Reginald Phillip, Antony Buckmire, Kade Layne, Rodney Garraway, Dennis Charles, Vincent (or Wilson) Reuben, Rodney Nelson, Ronald Nyack, Maurice

Patterson, Vaughn Noel, Raphael Roberts, Emmanuel Toussaint, Heslyn (or Sydney) Bartholomew, Benedict Henry, Lloyd Noel, Leslie Pierre, Tillman Thomas, Stanley Roberts, Roland Joseph, Herbert John, Evan Bholu, Leon Caliste, Francis Williams, Godfrey Williams, Lawrence Simons, Benedict George, Kiplyn Francis, Peter Boyke, Leroy Maxulin, Craf-ton Chilton, Billin Mitchell Raymond Steele, Fitzroy Parayag, Selwyn Fleming, Donville Neckles, Barry Joseph, Mickey James, Harold Lewis, Dave Greenidge, Adrian Alexis, Samuel Bonapart, Kenny Chilton, Charles Fleming, Joseph Peter, Kelly Rod, Alroy Bellengie, C. Logie, Matthew Fleming, Stephen Lewis, Worrel Nedd, Raymond Alexis, Peter Royce, Isaiah Henry, Bernard Patrick, Michael Andrew, Raphael Gilbert, Carlie (?), Edwin Roberts, Fabien Telesford, Clarence Bernard, Irie Calliste, Ethelbert John, Calude Simon, Neville Stanislaus, Eddie Pancho, Aouttie Charles, Leroy Joseph, Clétos Alexis, Edwin Jeldir, Ronald McSween, Noble Phillip.

[Editor's Note: An identical listing, with only a few alternative name spellings, was first published by the SUNDAY GUARDIAN of 31 October 1982, page 19. The introduction to that list simply stated, without elaboration, that it was taken from "the 'Grenada Newsletter.'"]

CSO: 3298/121

BISHOP CLAIMS GRENADA IS MOST DEMOCRATIC NATION IN CARICOM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, Nov. 6 (From Our Correspondent)

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has declared that Grenada is the most democratic country in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and that it allows for the greatest level of participation by the people in the decision-making and development processes.

According to Radio Free Grenada, Bishop made these comments last Thursday at a Women's Parish Council meeting, and he charged that, as the CARICOM Heads of Government meeting in Jamaica approaches, there has been intensification of anti-Grenada propaganda, particularly in the regional media, and this propaganda campaign, and those behind it, have reached "an unbelievable level of desperation".

"What is important for us to note ...", he said, "is that the reason these elements have to come out and spread all these lies in their desperation is because of this democracy in our country, because of the material benefits in our country, because of the progress the economy has been making in the country, is because of the fact that we have been able to knock out a 35 per cent unemployment over 3 years when so many industrialised countries around the world are, every day, finding more and more people out of work, like the great United States".

BISHOP SAID ONE of the main elements of the anti-Grenada campaign is to try to get the people to lose faith in their revolution and to isolate Grenada inside CARICOM, but in both areas there has been failure. The Prime Minister said the continuing work and development of mass organisations in developing and deepening Grenada's democratic process is one indication that the people remain firm in their commitment to the revolution.

While regional newspapers continue to print lies and distortions about the process, he said, the people of the region continue to come to Grenada and see for themselves that Grenadians are a happy people working to build their country.

"The best response we can give to those who would like to try to isolate the Grenada revolution, who would like to try to get us out of CARICOM and away from contact with our neighbours," he said, "is that we understand very well that what is happening here in our country has a tremendous relevance to the people of the region, that what is happening right here in Grenada has to be and has to continue to be, something which focuses on the real problems of the people of the region and not on those questions and issues that divide us."

Bishop said his government is not going to get into any "slinging match" with anybody or engage in "any combat and struggle" with those who want to bring up "divisive issues" and to "operate as puppets of imperialism".

CSO: 3298/121

BURNHAM ADDRESSES UNION MEETING, WARNS OF 'SUBVERSIVES'

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Oct 82 p 3

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Friday (CANA) — President Forbes Burnham has warned Guyanese of certain "subversive elements and saboteurs" in this socialist society and called on members of the Guyana Labour Union (GLU) to "ferret them out".

He was speaking at last night's opening of the 15th biennial conference of the GLU, of which he is president-on-leave.

"The subversive elements and saboteurs in the society are seeking to destroy the new order which we are seeking to build," he told the 200 delegates at the four-day conference.

President Burnham gave no clearer identification of who he was referring to, but said that the subversives were also seeking to divide the working class.

He described the relationship between the

government and the trade union movement as friendly and cordial.

"The trade union movement over the years, has gone a very far way indeed," he said, adding that it has been "officially and unofficially part of the general government of the country."

He praised the GLU for its militancy and noted that in these "times of change it is necessary for the union to operate in new fields and new skills."

President Burnham alluded to the world economic situation and said there was need for Guyanese to produce more for the recovery of the nation.

"The GLU," he said, "must readjust and readapt itself in acquisition of new skills." These new skills, he said, could be used in the management of the rice, forestry and fishing industries.

'CATHOLIC STANDARD' EDITOR HITS GOVERNMENT FOR RIGHTS ABUSES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 2 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Governments, which seem set to make conditions in Grenada one of their main talking points at a mid-November summit in Jamaica, should add alleged human rights abuse in Guyana to the agenda, the Vicar General of the Catholic Church in Guyana, Father Andrew Morrison, has suggested.

"CARICOM Governments have for a long time been silent on the abuses of the (Forbes) Burnham Government," Father Morrison said during a visit to Barbados.

"They always talk about conditions in Grenada, but say nothing about Guyana, where there has been confirmed blatant election rigging, where opposition supporters are harassed and repeatedly searched and pressure is kept on the independent media to cripple it."

Caricom leaders meet in Jamaica from November 15 to 18. An agenda has not been released, but both Jamaica and Barbados have said they would like the community to discuss the possibility of limiting Caricom mem-

bership to governments that are committed to free and fair elections.

Grenada is the only country in the 12-nation community whose government did not come to power through the ballot box. The leftist New Jewel Movement (NJM) took power by force of arms in 1979, toppling Eric Gairy's right-wing administration.

Fr. Morrison said Guyana had been described by opposition leaders and diplomats living there as "the world's most searched country."

Fr. Morrison, who is also editor of the weekly "Catholic Standard" newspaper, said the government's policy was apparently to withhold or distort the truth and to put pressure on others to do the same.

Of the "Catholic Standard", which claims a circulation of between 10 000 and 14 000, he said: "We are publishing things they (the government) don't want the people to know and it is undermining their credibility. The national media put out what the government wants the people to believe."

He added: "They have made it very difficult for us to operate, with their rationing of newsprint and their refusal to allow us to accept gifts of newsprint from friendly bodies overseas."

"In Guyana, the government is the sole importer of newsprint. We have been offered gifts of newsprint by several church organisations, but the government refused to allow the importation. They said it was a Cabinet decision not to allow gifts for commercial purposes."

In August, senior government officials, including President Burnham, vice presidents Hamilton, and Desmond Hoyte, filed five libel suits against the "Standard" and its editor over a number of articles critical of the government.

"The suits have distracted us from our work, and caused a lot of expense and trouble", Fr. Morrison said.

The "Standard" also has financial problems. Fr. Morrison said it is expected to make a loss of about \$70 000 (1 Guy dollar — 33 cents U.S.) this year. (CANA).

SEAGA DEFENDS ESSO PURCHASE, LISTS NEW OIL INITIATIVES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Nov 82 pp 1, 13

[Text]

A NUMBER of initiatives which are being pursued by the Government, following the purchase of the Esso Refinery, indicate that the acquisition of the plant will prove to be of benefit to the country.

"Considerable assistance" being given by Venezuela and Mexico towards the operation of the refinery by Jamaica is helping to bring this situation about, the Prime Minister said in his statement to Parliament and the nation yesterday.

Dealing with the question of energy supply and demand management by the Government, the Prime Minister said:

"THE PURCHASE of the Esso Refinery has cast some doubts on Government's policy of public ownership. I repeat for clarity that it is not our objective to expand public ownership but neither will we yield the right to act in the public interest if this requires public ownership of vital corporations. In some instances this may be temporary as in the case of collapsing hotels, in other cases, the need may be more permanent.

"The Esso Refinery was purchased for U.S.\$14 million plus U.S.\$2 million for spare parts and U.S.\$41

million for stocks of fuel which if we had not bought with the refinery would have had to be purchased anyway.

"The assets which we purchased for U.S.\$14 million have been valued by Pemex, the State Petroleum Corporation of Mexico, for U.S.\$53 million.

"IT WAS CLEARLY stated that one of the factors which led to the acquisition of the refinery was the possibilities which existed for the refinery to benefit more extensively in the hands of Government than in the ownership of Esso.

"This position is beginning to materialise with the considerable assistance of the Governments of Venezuela and Mexico.

"As a result, the following initiatives are being pursued:

1 Modification of the refinery to process Mexican crude, which we now receive under the Mexican oil Accord but which is processed overseas because the present capabilities of the refinery do not allow local processing.

2 Changes in the composition of oil feedstock to the refinery to the cheaper batch Aquero 17 from Venezuela at significant foreign exchange savings;

3 5,000 barrels per day additional supplies of Mexican crude under the accord for sale to the mining industry, with significant foreign exchange potential gains

4 Export of Venezuelan asphalt in drums. Although Venezuela is a major exporter of asphalt it has no drumming facilities.

5 Technical assistance from Venezuela to advise on the feasibility of exporting straight-run fuel oil and the re-importation of more refined oil — at financial and foreign exchange savings.

6 Assistance from Mexico to examine the needs of the refinery to maximise its efficiency so that when conversion to coal eventually reduces throughput of oil it will have the best possibilities to continue at an efficient level to process the oil requirements which will still remain.

"In the light of these initiatives, perhaps those who doubted the wisdom of the purchase of the Esso Refinery will now be of clearer vision and firmer conviction."

CSO: 3298/114

AIR JAMAICA TO 'REORGANIZE'; WORKERS WEIGH RESPONSE

Government-Ordered Measures

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] The Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, the Hon Pearnel Charles, has instructed the management of Air Jamaica to cancel all unprofitable routes and give him plans for the reorganisation of the airline, including a cutback in staff, the "Gleaner" has learnt.

According to reports to the 'Gleaner,' the directive was given at an emergency meeting called by the Minister with Air Jamaica management and employees at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, New Kingston, on Thursday night.

The meeting was summoned on the heels of what the 'Gleaner' understands to be a threat by the employees to withdraw their services unless certain wage increases were forthcoming.

However, the union representing Air Jamaica's ground staff, the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union, has denied that the workers are threatening to withdraw their service.

The 'Gleaner' was unable to contact Mr. Charles yesterday as he was said to be in Montego Bay. Neither was any management personnel from Air Jamaica available for comment.

The BITU and Air Jamaica are in negotiations for a new wage contract, a BITU spokesman told the 'Gleaner.'

At the a meeting on Monday, with the BITU, the company requested two weeks to "prepare a plan of restructuring," which would include wage increases, to take to their Board and finally to the Minister of the Public Service, a source close to the talks told the Gleaner.

THE BITU SPOKESMAN yesterday described as "very inaccurate and mischievous" statements which he said were made relating to workers at Air Jamaica.

According to the spokesman it was reported that the airline's ground staff had issued an ultimatum to take industrial action for two weeks after October 31. But this was not true, the spokesman said. They have issued no ultimatum to the management of Air Jamaica, he said.

"The facts are," he said, "the workers have not received a wage increase since October 1980 and at the present time, the BITU and the company are in the process of negotiating a new wage contract.

"At our meeting on November 1, the company requested two weeks to prepare a plan of restructuring, which would include wage increases, to take to their Board, and finally to the Ministry of the Public Service. The BITU agreed to the company's proposals."

At the end of the two weeks, after hearing the company's restructuring plan, the workers and the union will decide on what action to take, he said.

"It was reported that because of the demands for wage increases for the ground staff, the Minister of Public Utilities and Transport said he was breaking off negotiations for the purchase of two airbuses. If the report is true, the statement is unfair to the workers," the BITU spokesman said.

Renewed European Service

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Nov 82 p 1

[Excerpt] Air Jamaica's 747 jumbo jet, the St Colmeille, touched down at the Sangster International Airport at Montego Bay at 6:45 p.m. with 382 passengers and 15 foreign journalists to renew the airline's service from Frankfurt, Germany, via London to Montego Bay and Kingston.

The service had been suspended for some time and this is the first time Air Jamaica is flying a 747 jumbo jet.

A reception committee including the Minister of Transport, Mr Pearnel Charles; the Minister of National Security, Mr Winston Spaulding; the Minister of Health, Dr Kenneth Baugh; and the Minister of State for Tourism, Dr Marco Brown, was at the airport for the occasion.

CSO: 3298/124

BRIEFS

COUP PLOT APPEAL--Two soldiers of the Jamaica Defence Force who were convicted last year, February, by a Military Court for plotting to overthrow the Manley Government and the duly-constituted military authority, had their convictions squashed and sentences totalling 15 years set aside on Wednesday by the Court of Appeal. The ruling of the Appeal Court means that all eleven persons, nine soldiers and two civilians: H. Charles Johnson, President of the Jamaica United Front and Lerue Hyde, an executive member, charged in connection with the alleged coup in June 1980 have been cleared by the Courts. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 5 Nov 82 pp 1, 24]

AGRICULTURAL WARDENS--The Recruitment and Training of Agricultural Wardens under the Praedial Larceny (Prevention) Act will be carried out by the Police Force and the requirements for recruitment will be similar to those relating to District Constables. All applications will be processed at pre-determined areas in each parish as in the case for entry into the Police Force. These facts were revealed to the Farmers' Weekly yesterday by the Minister of Agriculture, Hon Dr Percival Broderick, who said that he was now working on the Regulations to give effect to the provisions of the Act as specified in Section 10(1) of the Act. Dr Broderick said he wanted to make it quite clear that as Minister he would have nothing whatsoever to do with the recruitment or selection of Wardens. The Regulations will provide for the organisation of Agricultural Wardens, the establishment of different grades and the precedence and commands to be exercised by the holders of such grades. The conditions of service, enrolment, promotion, demotion, dismissal or suspension of Wardens will be dealt with in the Regulations, as well as discipline and guidance. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Nov 82 p 8]

PUBLIC FOR COMMUNIST BAN--64 percent of the persons interviewed in the October 1982 Stone Poll supported the view that communist parties should be banned in Jamaica. 30 percent disagreed while 7 percent had no opinions. Within the Corporate Area opinions were reversed among PNP supporters with a majority opposing the idea of banning communist parties. An overwhelming majority of JLP supporters favoured the idea of an anti-communist ban (78 percent) while a much smaller majority (53 percent) favoured the idea among PNP supporters. Among independents who

neither supported the PNP nor the JLP support for the idea of a ban on communist parties was found to be 57 percent of the persons interviewed. [Text] [Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 7 Nov 82 p 18]

IMPORTS BAN--The importation of all varieties of peas and beans, onions and irish potatoes, has been banned with immediate effect. The ban was imposed by the Minister of Industry and Commerce, the Hon Douglas Vaz, after consultation with the Minister of Agriculture, Dr Percival Broderick. According to a release from the Ministry of Industry, these items are on the Restricted List of Imports and require a licence from the Trade Administrator to be imported. A notice to this effect was recently published in the press and action is being taken to post reminders at strategic places at the international airports. The action had become necessary because illegal importation had been acting as a disincentive to local production, the Minister said. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Nov 82 p 12]

CSO: 3298/124

COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

SPANISH-BUILT COASTGUARD CRAFT

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Oct 82 p 12-A

[Text] The second of six coastguard vessels built in Spain for the Mexican military fleet is now in the port of Veracruz, and the third will also be delivered this month at the shipyards in Cadiz, the Secretariat of the Navy has informed us. The three other vessels will arrive in November.

Bearing the historic name "Jose Azueta," the same as that of the H. Jose Azueta Military Naval School at Veracruz, this second coastguard vessel of 1,000 tons displacement has been provisionally incorporated into the Gulf Naval Force along with the "Virgilio Uribe," the first vessel to have been delivered for the purpose of patrolling our coasts.

These coastguard vessels of the Halcon type are each equipped with a helicopter which allows them to extend their range of action. The vessels are 90 meters long, are also equipped with a 40-millimeter cannon, and have a crew of 52 men. They can develop a maximum speed of 22 knots. Their cruising speed is 15 knots.

The "Jose Azueta" is under the command of Corvette Captain Raul Santos Galvan Villaneuva.

The third ship to be delivered will be named in honor of Mexican navigator Pedro Sainz de Baranda.

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CSO: 3248/155

COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

SUFFICIENT FOOD TRANSPORT CAPACITY

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Oct 82 p 13-A

[Text] Distribution of food to outlying areas of the country is assured because the federal autotransport system has enough cargo units, the Federal Auto transport head office stated yesterday.

That office reported that these units, for which all the country's production of raw materials has also been waiting, have been distributed to 57 cargo terminals in the interior of the republic. Among places specifically mentioned are Baja California Sur, Coahuila, Colima, Shiapas, Chihuahua, Durango, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Nuevo Leon, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tamaulipas, Veracruz and Yucatan states as well as the La Laguna area, a region where the need for cargo services is concentrated.

At the present time, the report added, central terminals at Manzanillo, Veracruz and Tuxpan are making a changeover to use containers as part of a multimodal system, retaining in the system Mexican methods of transport.

It was also stated that the central terminals at Piedras Negras, Nuevo Leon, Reynosa, Tampico and Lazaro Cardenas would be the next to receive this improved service.

9972

CSO: 3248/155

CHIAPAS SINALOA ROADWAYS CALLED IMPASSABLE

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 19 Oct 82, p 7-D

[Text] The inferior quality of materials used in the maintenance and construction of roads, lack of support for municipal works and also incompetency of officials of the Secretariat for Human Settlements and Public Works (SAHOP) together have created a situation in which employees do not carry out their legal duties. The road network of Chiapas and the northern part of Sinaloa are therefore deteriorating more and more every day.

Gonzalo Esponsa Alvarez, leader in Chiapas State of the Autotransport Coalition (which comes under the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers]), stated that the inferior quality of materials used by SAHOP in the construction of roads means that the jobs only hold up for 1 year. After that the roads become totally impassable for traffic because the asphalt strips deteriorate, he said.

Esponsa Alvarez explained to Porfirio Diaz Lopez, our correspondent in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas State, that new construction on the road network has been completely stopped because the whole year is taken up in making repairs on existing roads.

"Work programs regarded as priorities for the northern part of Sinaloa State have not been completely carried out because of incompetency and lack of interest on the part of SAHOP officials who do not support municipal projects carried out by the area's settlements either," he explained.

Eduardo Rodriguez Villaverde, the mayor of Guamuchil, Sinaloa State, told our correspondent there, Rosario I. Oropeza, that the attitude of SAHOP's chief official in Sinaloa is strange "because he does not carry out his legally defined duties in regard to the construction and maintenance of highway projects."

Esponsa Alvarez emphasized that the representatives of the federal government in the area are not troubling themselves to support construction projects carried out by local settlements or to support the road repair of the main streets of principal cities which is done by municipality tenant farmers and other personnel.

9972

CSO: 3248/155

BRIEFS

PSUM LEADS LAND SEIZURE--Tuxtepec, Oaxaca, 18 Oct--Some 200 peasants armed with sticks and machetes, and led by PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico] militants, took over 160 hectares of land this morning in the Playa Vicente municipality. Meanwhile another group of ejido workers of the same party refused to leave land they had seized in Laguna Cruz Verde. The peasants in Playa Vicente were led by Othon Cardosa Contreras. They seized the property of Eva Barrada and Maria Valdez Lopez who then asked police to intervene and make the trespassers leave their property. The peasant leader argued that the lands had not been worked for several years. The PSUM peasants have put up palm-leaf huts and have said they will not leave the site until SRA [Secretariat of Agrarian Reform] authorities approve their tenancy of this land since, as they put it, "the land belongs to the one who works it." Meanwhile at the site of the other encroachment incident, the PSUM ejido farmers were expecting intervention by officials to settle the problems there. [Article by Jose Coronado] [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Oct 82 p 35-A] 9972

PEASANT DIES IN CLASH--Oaxaca, Oaxaca State, 20 Oct--One peasant has died and 10 others have been wounded in shooting incidents caused by agrarian problems in Pochutla and Juquila Districts. Colonel Roberto Velazquez Olazabal, director of Public Security and Traffic, has reported that communal peasants from Santiago have taken over 1,300 hectares of communal land and small properties in the town of Santa Maria Temazcaltepec where one incident has occurred. Officers of the preventive action police have been sent to the seized lands in order to prevent additional incidents while authorities of the Secretariat of Agrarian Reform are talking with the trespassers to get them to leave the properties. In Pochutla District and San Pablo Topiltepec an incident involving peasants has caused the death of one person and 10 others have been wounded by gunfire. At municipal police headquarters it was stated that a peasant named Crispino Mendoza Ruiz, of Pochutla District, had died and that Juan Ruiz Mendoza, Francisco Ramon Hernandez and two unidentified persons had been wounded. In Topiltepec five persons were being held under arrest in the health clinic after being wounded by gunfire. [Article by Felipe Sanchez] [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 21 Oct 82 p 31-A]

9972

CSO: 3248/155

LABOR UNION RAPS GOVERNMENT ON INDEPENDENCE, OTHER ISSUES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Nov 82 p 5

[Text]

BASSETTERRE, Mon.,
(Cana)

ST. KITTS-NEVIS Trades and Labour Union has passed a series of resolutions condemning Government's decision to take the twin-island British Associated State into political independence before calling a general election, its running of the sugar industry, and its employment record.

The resolutions were passed during the Opposition-aligned union's 43rd annual conference yesterday.

Delegates claimed that the Government's proposals on independence for next year did not take into account "the legitimate aspirations of the people of St. Kitts."

They also argued that the proposals did not reflect maturity and equality of treatment for the people of the two islands.

They called on the Government to hold elections before committing the is-

lands to independence.

Another resolution calls on the Government "to institute a commission of enquiry into the sugar industry to determine the reasons for its decline and make recommendations to the Government to prevent its demise."

Delegates said the sugar industry in St. Kitts was in a state of rapid decline, and that "the Government have neglected, refused, or are unable to arrest this decline."

The Trade Union delegates claimed "the whole economy of the state is in financial shambles, as a result of mismanagement of the sugar industry."

They accused Government of putting pressure on workers not to become or continue as members of the union, and of encouraging employers who have anti-trade union policies.

Opposition Leader, Lee Moore, was re-elected last night president of the union.

CSO: 3298/115

PAM FIGURE SAYS NATION NEEDS 'BENEVOLENT DICTATOR'

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 29 Oct 82 p 3

[Text]

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts, Thursday (CANA) — A ruling Peoples' Action Movement (PAM) candidate in the 1975 St. Kitts-Nevis general elections, Washington Archibald, has called for the emergence of a "benevolent dictator" to save the state from ruin under the present two-party political system.

"The only way to establish a government of national unity and to lay the foundation for genuine peace is to raise up a ruler who will administer this country without the support of any political party," Archibald wrote in the bi-month "Opron Star", a cyclostyled newspaper published by the tiny Organisation of Progressive Nationals (OPRON).

Archibald, principal of the St. Kitts business college,

added: "In the history of this world, there have been benevolent dictators whose wise and righteous rules have rejoiced the spirits of their subjects and won their unreserved love. St. Kitts must start to look for one, otherwise the way things are going under the party system, St. Kitts will soon go down in ruin."

He said that the root of the problem in the country was that politicians who win an election consider themselves raised to run a partisan government.

"After an election," he noted, "party supporters rejoice because a period of power for their party means a period of rich harvest for them. To them will go all the preferences for jobs."

CSO: 3298/115

CATO, IN BROADCAST MESSAGE, DEFENDS CONTROVERSIAL TAX

Row With Chamber of Commerce

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Oct 82 p 4

[Text]

KINGSTON, Tues., (Cana):

THE Anglican Archbishop of the West Indies, Sir Cuthbert Woodroffe, today appealed to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Government and businessmen to try to speedily settle their dispute over a new tax.

But the dispute sharpened today with an exchange of verbal fire between the Chamber of Industry and commerce and the "Star" newspaper, an organ of the ruling party.

Sir Cuthbert told an audience at an Anglican Cathedral that he was prepared to act as a mediator in the dispute over the three per cent levy on traders gross turnover.

He said the Christian Council, comprising representatives from a number of churches, was also prepared to play a similar role.

He said the Anglican Church and the council were "always willing to assist in bringing forth what is conducive to peace."

Several businesses here closed their doors recently as businessmen continued efforts to get the government to drop the new tax.

United People's Movement (UPM), which said the tax would increase inflation, cause a cut-back in jobs, create shortages of essential items, and put more money in the hands of a government known to waste funds.

The paper said the party had joined forces with big business "to exploit the small man."

The paper said that some merchants had welcomed the opportunity of the recent closure to clear and re-organise shelves and items for sale, while for others it was an opportunity to rest or take stock.

"Star" newspaper claimed that most of the businesses which had closed had done so to avoid being molested by bandits employed by the chamber.

The chamber denied the claim.

The newspaper also criticised the Opposition

Cato's Defense

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 29 Oct 82 p 3

[Article by Michael Findlay]

[Text]

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent, Thursday, (CANA) — In his first public comment on a continuing row between his government and the local business sector over a newly-introduced three per cent gross turn-over tax, St. Vincent's Prime Minister Milton Cato said yesterday it was unfair to ask tax payers in foreign countries to finance the country's development while locals go free.

In a broadcast message marking the country's third independence anniversary, Mr. Cato said his government had embarked on programmes to improve the country's infrastructure, but added that EC\$8.6 million (1 EC dollar equal 37 cents U.S.) in taxes was owed to the state, with business accounting for half the amount.

"We have embarked on a major road building programme, community halls for training our young people in the rural areas, assistance with our water and sewerage services from tax payers of other countries," the Vincentian Leader said, asking: "Should we call a halt to all this while we try to evade and avoid payment of the lawful taxes of our country?"

The controversial three per cent, imposed in the budget in August, led to a shutdown of the country's commercial sector for four days earlier this month, and some traders are now refusing to wholesale basic items like sugar and rice as the tax, they say, is making business unprofitable.

Mr. Cato had earlier said that one of the reasons for the introduction of the tax was to raise some EC\$5.8 million to help with capital projects, to reduce dependence on foreign grants and aid.

Mr. Cato denied charges that there had been insufficient consultation between his government and relevant sectors of the community on the measure, adding that the amendments to the original tax had come about following discussions between Cabinet and the St. Vincent Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

While not denying that the amendments were the result of discussions between them and government, the chamber has however repeatedly said, that those discussions were without prejudice to their stand for the complete removal of the tax and that this was made clear to government at the outset.

On the country's progress in the first three years of nationhood, Prime Minister Cato said the economy had made a good showing, despite setbacks caused by volcanic eruptions in 1979 and hurricanes in 1980 and 1981.

As a result of these disruptions "which seriously retarded our economic development", government had to devote most of its energies over the last three years to rehabilitation efforts to put the country back on a firm economic footing, the Vincentian Leader added.

He expressed satisfaction with strides made in

agriculture, the mainstay of the economy, particularly in the bananas and arrowroot industries.

The St. Vincent Banana Growers' Association and the Windward Islands Banana Growers Association (WINBAN) together with the St. Vincent Arrowroot Industry Association were making an all out drive to stabilise the markets for their products in the face of stiff competition and numerous problems, the Prime Minister added.

But Mr. Cato said the growth of tourism had not measured up to official expectations, saying the country would have a lot more to offer if it were to become an attractive destination.

"We cannot take solace in the fact that the rest of the Caribbean is having a similar shortfall. All persons directly or indirectly connected to the tourist industry should be guided accordingly," he said.

The manufacturing sector, the Prime Minister said, had made a significant contribution towards relieving unemployment.

He announced plans for a new line of credit for the manufacturing sector next year, which would allow for credit of up to US\$540 000 for small business.

Under the line of credit programmes, small businessmen would be granted pioneer status which permits duty free importation of machinery, and tax free exemption for persons ranging from 10 to 15 years, he said.

Tax Arrears

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 31 Oct 82 p 3

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, Saturday, (CANA)--The St Vincent Government is moving to collect some \$8.6 million in income tax arrears--half of it owed by the business community, Prime Minister Milton Cato has announced here.

He said the Government was now recruiting bailiffs to seek out defaulters.

Mr Cato said that as at September 30 this year, limited liability companies and small traders in the state alone owed a total of \$4.3 million.

Mr Cato's announcement was linked to a two-and-a-half month-old dispute here between his government and the business sector over a new three percent Gross Turn-Over traders Tax.

The private sector is bitterly opposed to paying the new tax arguing that it would have too adverse an effect on business.

Mr Cato said that in the fiscal year 1981-82 tax paid by companies amounted to \$5.8 million, small traders paid \$500 000, while public and private sector workers paid \$9.4 million.

Trade Minister Vincent Beache has alleged that Vincentian businessmen are objecting to the Gross Turn-over Traders Tax mainly because they feared it would enable the Government to monitor their transactions more closely and thus prevent tax evasion on their part.

The business community closed down for four days this month to protest the measure.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry is behind private sector efforts to get the measure scrapped.

CSO: 3298/125

OPPOSITION MP CHARGES CATO GOVERNMENT WITH REPRESSION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Nov 82 p 18

[Text]

KINGSTON, Sun., (Cana):

OPPOSITION parliamentarian Calder Williams has said that there has been no significant economic development in St Vincent and the Grenadines since independence three years ago, and that during this time, Government has shown a tendency to be repressive.

Mr Williams, a former Leader of the opposition and representative for the North Leeward Constituency, said the years since independence have been marked by an increase in repressive tendencies on the part of the present Administration.

He cited the prolonged State of Emergency following the Union Island uprising in December, 1979, and, noted that last year Government tried to introduce a Public Safety and Public Order Bill and the Essential Services (Amendment) Bill, both of which he considered repressive.

Mr Williams accused Government of exposing undemocratic principles by violating trade union rights, and by its recent

introduction of the Representation of the Peoples Act governing the holding of general elections here.

He said the Act curtailed the power of the Supervisor of Elections and placed excessive powers in the hands of the Cabinet.

He accused Prime Minister, Milton Cato's Government of extravagant defence spending on a Coast Guard and the Police, and said Government failed to harness genuine foreign development aid for the country.

According to Mr Williams, this gave rise to increased taxation, increased unemployment and a decline in the general living standards of the people.

BRIEFS

UPM RESIGNATIONS--Kingstown, Fri., (AP)--Two prominent United People's Movement (UPM) members in St Vincent have resigned because the leadership elected to declare the movement a Marxist-Leninist party. Dr Ralph Gonsalves and Casper London, both former executive members of the movement, made the announcement during a news conference in Kingstown yesterday. Gonsalves, a former University of West Indies lecturer, and a founding movement member, said the decision would isolate the party from the mass of the working people in St Vincent and the Grenadines. He also expressed concern that the decision would disrupt the current Opposition alliance with the National Democratic Party headed by former Premier James Mitchell. Gonsalves and London both said they remained committed to work for the poor and that they would issue a statement later about their future political plans. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Nov 82 p 5]

CSO: 3298/125

TTEC REACHES TENTATIVE SETTLEMENT WITH STRIKING WORKERS

Presettlement Developments

[Editorial Report] From 27 October through 9 November 1982, the TRINIDAD GUARDIAN and SUNDAY GUARDIAN devote voluminous and detailed coverage to the ongoing dispute between the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC) and its employees--members of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU), which reached a tentative settlement the night of 2 November 1982. A sampling of this coverage includes the following:

On 27 October, page 1, the paper reported that an additional 8 workers had been dismissed, bringing to 15 the total number suspended. A separate page 1 report noted that the Commission planned to seek replacements for dismissed workers even from overseas, if necessary. The report added that the TTEC Board had endorsed actions taken thus far by the Commission.

A TRINIDAD GUARDIAN editorial the same day, on page 8, lamented the Commission's failure "to act with resolution" in the face of the open defiance of the workers and hoped that "the government will not wait until anarchy has completely set in before playing its final trump."

On 28 October, again in page 1 articles, the paper reported that two more employees, both union officials, had been dismissed and that the strike action had spread to the Point Lisas plant in what a TTEC official was quoted as calling "a worsening situation." Related stories on page 1 of 28 October reported a return-to-work plea from Minister of Labour, Social Security and Cooperatives Errol Mahabir, a meeting of the National Security Council concerning the strike and presided over by Prime Minister Chambers and an estimate from the nation's businessmen and manufacturers of millions of dollars in losses as a result of power outages caused by the industrial action.

A page 1 article on 28 October reported the temporary suspension of 48 workers at the Point Lisas and Penal power stations for failure to report to work as ordered. The report noted that the industrial unrest at TTEC was also affecting Telephone Company operations.

Front-page stories on 30 October reported a threat of disciplinary action by TTEC General Manager Leo Martin against any workers not reporting back to work by 1 November and a statement to the OWTU Executive Committee by

union president George Weekes deploring the "bad faith" of TTEC, which has "not improved the industrial relations climate," and maintaining that "no amount of dismissals, suspensions....and the arrest of union leaders would improve conditions at TTEC."

The SUNDAY GUARDIAN of 31 October carried a "Page One Editorial" reiterating the paper's condemnation of the workers but also scoring the "infantile paralysis" of the government. (The text of the editorial appears below as a related item). In the same issue, on page 8 in its regular editorial position, the paper again takes issue with the workers' audacity and flaunting of the law and adds a swipe of Minister of National Security John Donaldson for his failure to rant and rave about subversion and attempts to overthrow the government (see text below).

Among coverage on page 1 of the 1 November TRINIDAD GUARDIAN is a report that the General Council of the ruling People's National Movement, at a meeting attended by Chambers and members of his cabinet, "told the government and the management of TTEC to get on with the job of fully restoring the country's electricity supply." Elsewhere on page 1, the paper reported that a meeting had been scheduled among TTEC, OWTU, the Congress of Labour and the Council of Progressive Trade Unions for that same afternoon.

At that meeting, according to a front-page report on 2 November, the labor leaders called for a "special tribunal" to investigate the circumstances leading to the dispute.

By 3 November, in related page 1 articles, the TRINIDAD GUARDIAN reported the tentative end to the industrial action and the planned return to work of TTEC employees that day, following the 1 November meeting. Details pertaining to the settlement are furnished below.

Demand for Government Action

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 31 Oct 82 p 1

[Page One Editorial]

WE ARE dumbfounded at the appalling nonsense that has gone on in this country over the last two weeks in the matter of our electricity service.

Two weeks of open defiance of the very law and of the Government of this country by the workers of T&TEC have climaxed the deterioration of the Commission's effectiveness, so highly visible for at least two years now.

It was almost inevitable that we should arrive at the present stage where the people of this country have been without electricity and without water (as a result), and clearly no one from the Prime Minister down seems to know what to do.

A bitter intermezzo it is, within a dance of absurdity.

Since his election last year, Prime Minister George Chambers has been telling us that he was elected to run the show. Is this just so much "old talk" or is he prepared to match his words with actions and firm decision, when such firmness is called for?

The Government has shown its mettle before in dealing with workers who tried to hold the country to ransom. Remember the postmen who Christmas after Christmas initiated sick-outs and go-slows? That nonsense was stopped.

Remember the BWIA pilots, whose threat to stop flying in the peak Carnival period would have had serious repercussions? Again, the Government acted decisively, firing every last pilot including even those who had not taken industrial action.

Neither the postmen nor the pilots posed as serious a threat to national life and security as that now being brazenly posed by the T&TEC workers.

For two weeks citizens have suffered untold hardship, without electricity, without water, running imminent risk of serious effects on their health. The loss in terms of dollars and cents must be incalculable.

And what do we have?

A grand-charge Cabinet meeting is called last Sunday in the midst of a picnic tour of the Eastern counties by our political directorate and an anticlimatic statement by Utilities Minister John Eckstein that should really have been held back for Holly's "Scouting for Talent," although it stood as much chance of reaching "Scouting" semi-finals as, say, the Mighty Popo.

Armed Police

Exposed for all--and the electricity workers in particular--to see was the infantile paralysis that has overtaken the Government.

No wonder the workers, toughened by the "badjohn" tactics of their union, imagine that they could do just about anything they want.

So in spite of Mr Eckstein's broadcasting Government's "decisions" about this, that and the other, hardly any T&TEC worker turned out for work. Instead, large numbers turned in dubious medical certificates, others pitched camp on City Council premises before the very gates of T&TEC's power stations, notwithstanding the armed presence of the police.

In fact, we now have total absurdity--an injunction against the City Council's eviction order, served on workers illegally occupying their property.

Our question is this: "Having served a quit order, why did the City Council not act and insist that the workers get off its property? Or is it that it hoped the workers would file an injunction that would spare it having to act at all? We ask this because the whole thing seems to us to be similar to the case of a housebreaker invading property and calling upon the court to protect "his" property rights.

All that we have had so far is an apologetic disciplining of men, dismissing the smallest handful they could imagine and suspending 50-odd.

Electricity generation and distribution is an essential service. The workers of T&TEC are breaking the law covering such a service and yet no one seems to be able to act, except for these token dismissals and suspensions. The whole thing is a charade.

The men are obscenely taking advantage of weak management and tepid Cabinet and are telling themselves that they are indispensable and, therefore, nobody will dare to "bite the bullet."

They feel that they can define the issue as "essential work demands essential pay; essential pay demands essential flouting of the law; essential flouting of the law demands essential condonation" by the Government, the City Council, the police, the courts and their fellow citizens.

Total Shutdown

So we are sliding into Act Two.

The Commission has announced that it is looking high and low for staff.

It is hoping to attract former employees, including pensioners, or to be given carte blanche to import the necessary staff. We wish them success in this very difficult task.

In the meantime, we understand there may well be an attempt at the total shutdown of the electrical generation. This, we suppose, would be followed by a national strike. That, at any rate, is what some opponents of the Establishment (their word) are reported to be titillated about.

We suppose if such a strike occurred, the Government which has showed, under the guise of patience and tolerance, nothing but fear of the electrical workers, their loudmouthed president-general and his Port-of-Spain range rider, many then decide to act. Mercifully, it may not be too late.

What has been evident all along is that years of political patronage and preferment, unwise expenditure, feckless management, poor maintenance, erratic industrial relations, and other flabbergasting inefficiencies are climaxing in criminal negligence, torpid productivity, and brutal anarchy generated by the

workers. Those years are harvesting a toll that can affect gruesomely the economy of this country.

The workers must cease their silly games or suffer the consequences of effective action to guarantee us all a reliable and essential supply of electricity.

Slap at Workers, Donaldson

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 31 Oct 82 p 8

[Editorial]

There are two sights in Trinidad and Tobago today that fill us with unspeakable anger.

The sight of T&TEC workers sitting at tables under a tent, sipping drinks and playing cards in Port-of-Spain.

The sight of T&TEC workers, accompanied by steelband, apparently having a grand old time while the people of this country suffer without electricity and all that follows the unwanton cutting off of this essential service.

T&TEC workers are represented by the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU) who for years have acted as though they are the only ones with grouses and the only ones with the clout to hold the entire country to ransom.

It is time the people of this country made it clear to all concerned that we have had enough. Electricity is an essential service and there is good reason for so declaring it. Without electricity the entire country comes to a standstill.

Untold suffering and inconvenience follow, and it seems to us quite incredible that workers who have been breaking the law with downright impunity have been allowed to get away with it.

In addition we now have the absurdity of the application of a High Court writ filed by two workers demanding that the Court actually restrain the City Council from preventing them and their colleagues from camping out on the "green" opposite the Flament Street power station in Port-of-Spain.

We are utterly astounded as to how anybody can call upon the Court to assist him in action meant to support his original breaking of the law.

In the meantime the electricity issue — a real issue at last, appears to have silenced the Minister of National Security. No longer does one hear Mr. John Donaldson ranting and raving about subversive elements and coups and attempts to overthrow the government,

There may of course be good reason for Mr. Donaldson's low profile. He might be trying to change his image of the big bad wolf. On the other hand both the Regiment and the Police come under his portfolio and he may be even now planning his strategy in which the element of surprise must play an important part.

There has been talk of a limited state of emergency, and it may well come to this if the issue is not resolved before long.

Mr. Donaldson must be heady with excitement as his big moment seems at hand.

Interview With Eckstein

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 31 Oct 82 pp 5, 6

[Interview with Senator Eckstein by John Babb]

[Excerpts]

MINISTER of Public Utilities and National Transportation, is the man in the hot seat these days. Electricity is part of his portfolio, and electricity is a word on everybody's lips. Due to industrial action taken by workers at the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC), the electricity supply situation in the country began a steady downhill skid from October 19, when the workers began staying off their jobs at the Port-of-Spain power plant. This resulted in a spate of outages and load-shedding which have played havoc with the country's economy. SUNDAY GUARDIAN writer JOHN BABB interviewed the Minister on the present impasse which has affected the ordinary housewife as well as large companies, and here's how Senator Eckstein responded.

QUESTION: Can you tell me what is the present situation with respect to the industrial relations climate at T&TEC?

ECKSTEIN: The industrial relations climate at T&TEC is very unsatisfactory at this point in time.

The union began negotiations for a new industrial agreement sometime ago. It held discussions with the management. These discussions did not prove conclusive. They were subsequently referred to the Minister of Labour for conciliation, where again, notwithstanding the efforts of the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mahabir, there has been no settlement.

The matter is now with the Essential Services Division of the Industrial Court. And my information is that the court will hear the matter on December 8.

QUESTION: December 8? In view of the seriousness of the situation, could the hearing not be earlier?

ECKSTEIN: Again, I speak subject to correction. My information is that the date determined by the Industrial Court is largely as a result of a request by the union for time to prepare its case.

It is against the background of this outstanding industrial dispute that the action has come. Clearly the workers at T&TEC are disturbed about the extended time that it is

taking to conclude the new industrial agreement.

QUESTION: Under the circumstances, what is the Government and the Commission doing to expedite a successful conclusion to these negotiations?

ECKSTEIN: The Commission will certainly welcome a speedy resolution of the problem, but the terms and conditions agreed to must be reasonable and related to the norms that have been established for industries of a similar type.

SUPPLY

The Government on the other hand is equally concerned that there should be a quick resolution of the problem. But while the Government cannot interfere directly, it has established the machinery — namely, the Essential Services Division of the Industrial Court — through which agency the matter would be speedily resolved.

QUESTION: In the meantime, what is the present state of the electricity supply in the country?

ECKSTEIN: In discussing the present state of the electricity supply, it might be useful to distinguish between generation, transmission and distribution.

In so far as generation is concerned, there

are three generating plants in Trinidad. There is one at Port-of-Spain, where in fact the industrial action commenced. At this plant there are four units. But of the four that are available, only one is operating. That one is being manned by the management of the Commission.

The second plant is at Point Lisas where, of the eight commissioned units, six are in operation and two are down for repairs. There are two other units that have not yet been commissioned. Work on them is still being done by the manufacturers.

The two units that are down for repairs are the No. 8 — for certain minor maintenance — and the No. 9 — for major repairs. The No. 8 unit is expected to be back in service by the middle of this coming week. A replacement coupling which it needs is now in Miami and is being air-freighted to Trinidad. When it arrives it will take one day to install. Both Nos. 8 and 9 each provide a capacity of 62.5 megawatts. Units not yet commissioned are Nos. 11 and 12. There are no

No 1 and No 2 units.

Although they were installed earlier this year, units No. 11 and No. 12 have not been put in service due to a design fault. Corrective work on them is now being done by the manufacturers under the contract warranty. It would be unfair to record them as fully commissioned.

The six units currently in operation at Point Lisas are the Nos. 3 and 4, each with a capacity of 20 megawatts; No. 5, with 70

megawatts; No. 6, with 25 megawatts; and Nos. 7 and 10, each producing 62.5 megawatts.

CAPACITY

At Penal, the third plant, all the units, though very old, are available to operate.

So to conclude, altogether there is available more than 300 megawatts of generating capacity — adequate to meet the needs — there has been load-shedding simply because the management by itself cannot maintain a sufficient number of available

units in operation to satisfy the needs of the country.

There is, therefore, nothing fundamentally wrong in the area of generation as far as the Commission's plant and equipment are concerned. The problem here is inadequate staffing, as a consequence of the industrial action, to man the units that are available.

With respect to transmission, there are really no problems on the horizon. The transmission network is adequate to meet current needs, and there are few, if any faults with the system. The inadequacy of staff is not a problem in this particular area.

In so far as distribution is concerned, there has been very low worker output in this area. And, as a consequence, many areas that are now without a supply of electricity are in this situation because of the distribution gangs not replacing fuses, or burnt-out transformers, or whatever factors that cause distribution-related outages. It has nothing to do with load-shedding.

Unsatisfactory

QUESTION: There has been serious criticism levelled by trade unions against the management of the Commission in terms of what the unions call unsatisfactory industrial relations practices and in terms of the power equipment. What is your response to this?

ECKSTEIN: I cannot comment on some of the details that have been raised. What I can say is that I have urged the Commission to take full cognisance of any criticism levelled from any source and to give consideration to correcting these deficiencies where it is satisfied that such unsatisfactory conditions

exist.

But I would like to add that within the last year there have been three full-scale inquiries into the Commission. One was done at the instance of the Prime Minister by a team of experts from the World Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat. This inquiry did establish that a number of things were wrong with the Commission, but it concluded by saying that, notwithstanding these criticisms, the team remained convinced that the Commission was an essentially sound organisation with very dedicated management.

I am hopeful that the first part of the team's state-

ment is true, because the management has demonstrated in this crisis that the second part is true. Look at them now. They are carrying the damn thing on their backs.

This experience can leave no doubt in any one's mind that they are in fact dedicated, and the country owes them a considerable debt of gratitude for sparing the population from suffering even greater inconvenience than what they have been put through.

There was also an investigating team headed by Professor Satcunanathan which reported to me personally. Then there was the study done by the Public utilities Commission. All of these studies have been published. And on the basis of the recommendations which these studies contained, the Commission is taking steps to improve the work environment.

But as the Public Utilities Commission pointed out, the Electricity Commission will continue to be the butt of criticisms because of two factors — the basic and intrinsic role that electricity plays in both commercial and domestic activities in the country, and the fact that demand for the service is increasing continuously.

During the period January to April, peak electricity demand reached 382.1 megawatts — an increase of 37.6 megawatts over the peak for the corresponding period in 1981. Given this situation, one understands the reaction of customers when service is disrupted or falls below the expected standard.

In its improvement plans the Commission is also moving to deal with the upsurge in development of commercial activity in the country.

Take the case of Arima: the indications are that personnel in the Arima area are stretched beyond their limits to cope with expansion. The Santa Rosa sub-station was brought on stream on March 28. The first feeder was energised on April 5.

Another sub-station at El Socorro is soon to be commissioned and yet another is nearing completion. It is hoped that this will upgrade the dependability of supply to Trinicity residents.

The improvements also include machinery for dealing with customers' complaints. This will shortly be done through the establishment of reporting centres and conveniently-located service depots with a view to improving services offered to customers.

Speculation on 'Sinister' Hand

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Nov 82 p 9

[Article by George Alleyne]

[Text] The workers of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission whose actions seem to defy both prudence and logic, are standing on a burning deck. Soon all but they would have fled.

The more I look at the unhappy situation the more I am convinced that the workers are being cleverly and callously manipulated by a third party.

For they are not brave men fighting the cause of labour, for the dignity of labour, for the advancement of labour, as some people would have the rest of the nation believe.

Indeed, they may be stubborn men, foolhardy men perhaps, but certainly not brave men. The timing of their action was interesting.

I assume they must have heard or read about the Industrial Relations Act. Some may have even read it and a few of those who read it may have studied it.

They must be aware that the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission is an essential service.

Surely, someone must have told them strikes in an essential service are forbidden by law, that to act in concert in any manner that may, or so as to disrupt the production, supply and distribution of electricity by staging a sick-out or utilising some other device, is to come into conflict with the law.

Someone must have told them of the penalties the law provides. Yet though I have written all this, the question that nags me is not why have these men sought to spit in the face of the wind, but who are the persons manipulating them or perhaps more so, why are they manipulating them?

Wage Demands

The whole so-called industrial dispute has been carefully orchestrated--the impossible wage demands, the request for free electricity and so on, and so on and so on.

While the demands, as presented to the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission were framed by the Oilfields Worker Trade Union, did an outside source influence the putting forward of those demands?

Was one branch or were several branches influenced to put forward certain proposals that a leadership, noted for being militant, dared not reject?

George Weekes, President General of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union, is not known to be an unreasonable man at the bargaining table.

I have spoken with several senior management personnel in companies and enterprises that have negotiated with him and they have all insisted on this.

Who stands to benefit by all this? Is the country being carefully conditioned to accept something more far-reaching than outages and dislocation of industry?

Is the country being prepared for something more than dismissals and suspensions at the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission and a worsening of the industrial climate?

Is it possible that an attempt is being made to destabilise Trinidad and Tobago, using the workers of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission as unknowing pawns?

There must be many in the country today who hanker after the "good old days" (take note of the quotation marks) as represented by the last years of the Dr Eric Williams regime.

Those years of wine and roses, petro dollars and massive corruption.

What I have written and what I shall write I do so in all sincerity. I write not to inflame the passions of honest thinking men and women. I point no accusing finger at any specific person or persons.

But I must speak out against what appears to me to be the greatest threat to our freedom since dissident factions within the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment declined to accept and carry out lawful orders of their superiors on that fateful morning in April 1970 and instead chose to attempt an overthrow of the legally-elected Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

I believe firmly that the encouragement of this misguided defiance of authority and laws of the land is part of a carefully orchestrated plan (there I go again) to discredit the leadership of Mr George Michael Chambers and to have him replaced as Prime Minister, presumably, if and when he goes to attend the Caricom Heads of Government Conference listed to take place in Jamaica this month (November), or at the first suitable opportunity.

Whether it will succeed is something else. But everything points to such a plan.

I wish to reaffirm my faith in the honesty and integrity of Mr Chambers. It is because of this honesty and integrity that dishonest men see in him a menace.

He has come out strongly against corruption. The wheelers and dealers in our midst have been offended. Chambers has denied them a chance, nay, the right to continue to collect their commissions.

If he can be removed then the cry will be: Happy days are here again!

I truly wish that this one occasion events will prove me wrong. Well do I remember, however, when one of our neighbours to the North was keen in 1970, on seeing a would-be Pretender to the throne of Dr Eric Williams, replace Williams as Prime Minister, according to reports circulating at the time.

than a year ago the same neighbour was so eager to have George Chambers unseated that, I am told, some of its representatives forgot all about diplomatic and were literally "shooting their mouths off." Pardon the expression.

It will not be so easy to topple Mr Chambers as it was to lobby to have him removed from his post as Minister of Finance some years ago.

Then Mr Chambers had challenged and not without reason and justification the special position of a certain company registered and operating in Trinidad and Tobago.

Chambers had insisted at the time and rightly so that the company should be treated as other companies in the same field and should not enjoy preferential status.

To have continued to have this company enjoy this status was discriminatory and in the long run Government and people of Trinidad would have been the losers.

The company insisted on the special status, but Mr Chambers held firm and the company was treated on an equal basis with that of similar companies.

A powerful faction within the company of not inconsiderable weight protested and lobbied strongly against not merely its new and unwanted position of equality, but Mr Chambers personally.

In the end Chambers paid the price for his integrity and concern for the nation's welfare.

With the transfer of Chambers a carefully planted and nurtured rumour was encouraged and circulated which sought to convey the impression that Mr Chambers was unduly concerned that the desire of a large Indian bank to spread its wings here should succeed.

It was a reprehensible lie that persons who knew Mr Chambers and appreciated his honesty and integrity immediately rejected.

I am not suggesting, of course, that there is any connection between the company's past actions and the present attempt to destabilise the country, but I have stated that fact for the record.

Settlement Provisions

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by Norris Solomon]

[Text] Labour leaders, in efforts to resolve the T&TEC dispute, met with Rep Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Cooperatives, late into Monday night.

And after proposals and counter-proposals and discussions between the Minister, labour leaders representing the Trinidad Labour Congress and the Council of Progressive Trade Unions and Dr Ken Julien, Chairman of Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission, proposals were made to the labour leaders for an end to the impasse at T&TEC.

T

The proposals were outlined by Mr Francis Mungroo, General Secretary of the Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Trade Union who chaired a meeting of T&TEC workers yesterday. The proposals include:

--All workers except the ten workers who have been dismissed by the Commission must report for work as scheduled.

--Any such worker who fails to report for duty by Wednesday November 3 or if scheduled later by the date scheduled will be treated by the Commission as having abandoned his job.

--The union will immediately report a dispute to the Minister of Labour concerning the dismissal of the ten workers to be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act.

--No repression or victimisation against any worker.

Suspensions Lifted

Mr Mungroo explained that all the suspensions would be lifted under the proposals and the only situation remaining was the ten dismissed workers.

He said the essential service division of the Industrial Court was prepared to handle the matter within ten days.

Explaining the proposals from the legal point of view as he understood it, Mr Alan Alexander, legal counsel for the OWTU said that as regards the ten dismissed workers conciliation measures would be taken with a view to settling it and if not settled then it goes to the Industrial Court where an expeditious hearing has been promised.

Mr Alexander said whether they liked it or not the IRA was part of the law of the land and Government could take decisions under the law.

He pointed out that the IRA which stipulated electricity as an essential service..."and as a result industrial action leaves the employer to dismiss whoever the employer wishes."

He said also that the Government had power too and could declare a state of emergency.

Union Action

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] It's back to work this morning for workers of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC).

The back-to-work decision came last night following a meeting of workers of the Commission and the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) at the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Trade Union Hall, Wrightson Road, Port-of-Spain.

The meeting which got underway during the mid-afternoon period yesterday was also attended by members of the Labour Congress. The SWWTU Hall was pitched into darkness last night as workers mingled outside the building obviously to discuss the back to work decision.

Mr George Weekes, president general of the OWTU addressed the workers warning that if anything could be proven his union could be decertified not only in respect of T&TEC.

When it was announced that workers should resume duties, most of the workers expressed displeasure of having to return to work under the existing conditions.

Some of them openly stated that they were glad to resume work while others were reluctant to comment as they were still undecided about the decision by the OWTU.

After this, the shop stewards went upstairs the Union Hall to discuss the back to work decision. They remained in conference for some time while workers strolled around the yard with others left to spread word about the return to work.

David Abdullah, Research Officer of the OWTU confirmed last night that work will resume this morning at all the Commission's plants in Port-of-Spain, Penal and Point Lisas.

Operators were expected to turn out in full force on the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift last night. A check with the Commission last night about the outage at the SWWTU Hall revealed that the fault was developed in a nearby transformer.

The spokesman could not say exactly when the supply would return to normal as there were no maintenance workers to deal with the problem. It was also learnt that several other areas along Wrightson Road were affected.

The back to work decision came after discussions were held on Monday between Mr Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives and representatives of the OWTU, the Council of Progressive Trade Unions (CPTU), the Labour Congress and the Commission.

Trade Dispute

The labour movement submitted that all workers including the dismissed and suspended ones were to resume work in order to bring the situation back to normal. But this proposal was rejected by the Minister and the labour movement went into further deliberations.

It was finally agreed by the labour movement that all workers except the ten dismissed employees were to resume work by this morning or as scheduled failing which they would be considered to have abandoned their jobs.

The situation concerning the dismissed workers will be treated as a trade dispute and will be handled through conciliatory talks or at the Industrial Court.

It was also agreed that all 56 workers who were suspended must report for work this morning along with the shop steward who was suspended until next week.

At yesterday's meeting Mr Weekes told the workers "what we want is that workers should go back and work after being satisfied that justice is done. I ask members to be calm, collected and disciplined."

Senator Vernon Glean, President of the Labour Congress, told the workers that they could not make any decisions because "the answer lies with you and we had to bring it back to you."

End to Load-Shedding

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 5 Nov 82 p 1

[Excerpts] There will be no more load shedding throughout the country as experienced in the past two weeks. This assurance has come from the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC) through its public relations officer, Roy Mitchell.

According to Mr Mitchell, there are now sufficient units in operation to supply the needs of the population and where pockets of outages may occur these will be of a "local nature."

At the Port of Spain "B" power station unit number three which has a capacity of 80 megawatts of power has been brought back into service.

At a recent Press conference Leo Martin, general manager of the Commission, said if two out of the four units at the station were in operation they would be sufficient to supply the needs of consumers in the northern and eastern areas of the country.

As far as a backlog of complaints from consumers are concerned, Mr Mitchell said distribution crews are out correcting these problems.

However, he was unable to say what was the extent of the backlog, saying that it was a "reasonable quantity."

The public relations officer also explained that members of the armed forces--soldiers and coast guardsmen--who are on the Commission's premises are "giving general assistance in critical areas."

"They are helping in maintenance chores and are not there for security purposes," he said.

He said he could not say how long the policemen who were seen at the Commission's various stations and its surroundings would be present.

Return of Outages

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] The inclement weather has been blamed by the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC) for the latest series of outages affecting the country.

According to the Commission's public relations officer Roy Mitchell, the weather caused faults to occur in the main transmission system resulting in a loss in supply.

Consumers in the north and east suffered the most prolonged periods of outages that reminded them of recent weeks when they were similarly affected by an industrial unrest within the Commission.

Reports from the south and central also said that consumers were complaining about periods of outages and low voltage supply.

In a release yesterday the Commission's public relations officer said:

"The loss in supply came about because of faults which occurred on our main transmission system as a result of the inclement weather experienced over the past 24 hours.

"Supply to most of the affected area in the north has since been restored and work is continuing to return supply to consumers in the eastern area. Work is expected to be completed before the end of the day (yesterday)."

A source at the Commission explained that lightning arrest could be one of the reasons why the stormy weather affected the Commission's transmission lines.

The source explained that there are "lightning arresters" installed on transmission lines to trip off lines immediately bolts of lightning begin to affect the system.

When the arresters trips the line, electricity supply is halted until such time as the Commission sees it safe to restore the service. As lightning itself discharges electricity it may cause severe damage if not arrested.

As regards periods of outages over the weekend in Maraval, Woodbrook, St Anns, Cascade and several northern areas, the Commission's public relations officer said these were due to "local problems" and will have to be repaired by distribution crews as they work at clearing up a backlog of trouble reports.

Concerning figures published in Saturday's "Guardian," Mr Mitchell said these numbers represented the number of trouble calls on local problems the Commission received during the unrest and not for the year.

A report from Maraval said that a transformer blew around 2.30 p.m. on Sunday but was repaired and the service restored at 7.15 p.m.

Another report of a blown transformer came from Quarry Road in San Juan. Residents there said they were without an electricity supply since yesterday.

In Curepe there were complaints of no water supply since yesterday morning as the Caroni Arena dam had no electricity to operate its pumps.

Meanwhile in New Grant in the south, villagers have been without power for the past 21 days.

A similar report from Central Barrackpore said the area has been without electricity for the past 17 days. A spokesman for the area said the villagers had made more than 19 reports to the Commission's southern office at Gooding Village, San Fernando.

At the Amalgamated Industries Ltd at Arima, the motor car assembly plant was reported to be without power at seven this morning. This followed a three-hour outage on Friday.

Approximately 90 employees at the Trinidad and Tobago Processors Plant had to be sent home yesterday after power supply was cut at 11 a.m. Earlier on that morning the plant had been without electricity from 7 until 9.20 a.m.

Most of the 15,000 pounds of fresh meat could be kept for 12 to 13 hours while the processed meats could last longer before spoilage sets in, said a spokesman for the company.

Persons affected by outage periods are asked to call in to the "Guardian" on telephone number 62-38871-8.

CSO: 3298/127

UTILITIES COMMISSION NOTES CAUSES OF POOR TELCO SERVICE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Company (Telco) is No. 1 on the public Hit Parade.

The Public Utilities Commission, headed by Dr Selwyn Ryan, reports 62 complaints about Telco, made by members of the public during January to April this year.

The commission's six complaints officers also handled 60 complaints about the Water and Sewerage Authority, 31 about Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission and 11 about the Port. No public complaints about the Public Transport Service Commission are mentioned in the commission's review.

About Telco, the publication notes that most complaints dealt with disruption of service. "One of the principal areas of weakness in the standard of service provided by this utility is the time it takes to restore service," the review declares.

"Four of the 17 complaints about telephones to be restored concerned subscribers who have been without service for more than one year.

"One such complainant has been without service for as far back as 1979."

Some of the long outstanding complaints seemed to be restricted to particular areas such as Port-of-Spain (Belmont/Laventille districts), the Diego Martin/Petit Valley areas and St Augustine and Chaguanas regions.

They are the result of "highly technical cable problems," according to the commission. Hopefully these would be solved when International Continental Telephones (I.C.T.) completed laying new cables in these areas.

During the first five months of 1982 the company added 1,095 new lines. Of these 550 were business and 545 residential. Total number of telephones at the end of April was 84,953.

Repair Troubles

The commission made a study of hindrances to the restoration and maintenance of service six findings were:

1. Repair crews may abandon a repair job when they find vehicles parked near the telephone pole.
2. Repair vehicle drivers sometimes get traffic tickets when they park in prohibited areas to do repair jobs.
3. Contractors for other utilities often damage telephone cables. Telco in such instances is not notified of excavation work near telephone cables.
4. Lack of suitable testing equipment.
5. Under-utilisation of gangs due to:
 - (a) Trade union practice relating to size and composition of gangs.
 - (b) Inadequate and inappropriate tools.
 - (c) Low availability of vehicles.
 - (d) Labour/management relations.
6. Aversion by the union to foreign contractors working on the expansion projects.

The commission says that the company was making efforts to overcome some of these constraints.

The commission met the union, Communication Workers Union and Telco. Reasons given for poor performance were lack of capacity to meet demand for new telephones and to carry increased traffic on the existing network, lack of training and lack of records or of up-to-date records.

The commission concludes that in spite of continuing weaknesses the company has made some improvement in the quality of service.

\$61.5 M. Loss

Reflecting on the "dismal picture" of Telco finances, the commission's survey shows a \$61.5 million deficit last year, a rise of 53.2 percent. Telco overbudgeted its revenue for 1981 by 48.2 percent.

Telco's last surplus was one of \$51,176 in 1975 and its accumulated loss to the end of last year was \$158.4 million.

As deficits go, the \$61.5 million loss at Telco compares with \$118.2 million at the Port, and \$114 million estimated for the Public Transport Service Commission at the end of this year. Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission had a \$6.3 million deficit during the first two months of this year, up by \$1 million.

No financial details are given on the Water and Sewerage Authority in the commission's latest survey.

In 1980 Government spent \$358 million to cover deficits by the utilities. Over the five years 1976 to 1980 the accumulated total was \$1,102 million.

Complete removal of Government subsidy would result in prohibitive rates particularly for lower income persons, and this would also be impracticable for some utilities, according to the commission.

The commission's review deals with the question of speeding up rate hearings and new concepts for electricity rates.

CSO: 3298/128

DETAILS OF IMPORT, EXPORT ACTIVITY FOR 1982 REPORTED

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Nov 82 p 4

[Text]

DURING the month of June, 1982, Trinidad and Tobago imported goods valued \$952 million while exports were worth \$615 million. The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago therefore, recorded an adverse Balance of Visible Trade for the month of June, 1982, in the sum of \$337 million. This compares with imports of \$361 million and exports of \$654 million for the corresponding month in 1981, a favourable balance of \$293 million.

During January to June, 1982, Trinidad and Tobago imported goods worth \$4,377 million. Total Exports amounted to \$3,750 million, of which \$3,676 million represented Domestic Exports. An adverse Balance of Visible Trade totalling \$627 million was recorded for the period January to June, 1982. This compares with Total Imports \$3,069 million, and Total Exports, \$4,454 million, of which \$4,306 million were Domestic Exports for the corresponding period in 1981.

For the period January to June, 1982, the Petroleum Sector accounted for 36% of Total Imports and 90% of Total Exports. Excluding Petroleum, Imports amounted to \$2,806 million and Exports \$383 million.

Under the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 2, Section 0 - Food and Live Animals, the principal commodities imported during January to June 1982 were:- Cereal and Cereal Preparations \$99 million, Fruits and Vegetables \$72 million, Feeding Stuff for Animals \$60 million and Dairy Products and Eggs \$59 million. This section accounted for 9.2% of Total Imports compared with 12% in 1981.

Major items of export falling in Section 0 were:- Sugar and Sugar Preparations \$33 million; Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, Spices \$17 million; Cereal and Cereal Preparations \$6 million and Fruits and Vegetables \$4 million. This Section constituted 1.9% of all Exports.

MAIN SOURCES

Total Imports for January to June, 1982, when compared with Total Imports for the same period in 1981

showed that Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and Related Materials increased by \$736 million, Machinery and Transport Equipment by \$298 million, Manufactured Goods by \$209 million, Chemicals by \$26 million, Crude Materials by \$25 million and Food and Live Animals by \$17 million. However, Imports of Animals and Vegetable Oils and Fats decreased by \$4 million.

A comparison of Total Exports in the same two periods showed that in the 1982 period Chemicals increased by \$26 million, Crude Materials by \$8 million, Beverages and Tobacco by \$5 million and Manufactured Goods by \$4 million. However, there were decreases in Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and Related Materials by \$611 million, Machinery and Transport Equipment by \$82 million and Food and Live Animals by \$52 million.

The value of Imports under the CARICOM Agreement during January to June, 1982 was \$147 million; 3% of Total Imports. Domestic Exports under the CARICOM Agreement totalled \$204 million or 6% of Total Domestic Exports.

The main sources of Trinidad and Tobago's CARICOM Agreement Imports during January to June, 1982 were:- Jamaica 37%, Barbados 28% and Guyana 17%. Of Total Domestic Exports to the CARICOM bloc Guyana absorbed 37%, Barbados 20%, Jamaica 15%, Antigua 10% and St. Lucia 5%.

During January to June, 1982 CARICOM Agreement Imports from Jamaica and Barbados showed increases of \$16 million and \$13 million respectively. However, Imports from Guyana decreased by \$4 million. Domestic Exports to Guyana and Jamaica increased by \$28 million and \$4 million respectively. However, Exports to St. Lucia and Antigua decreased by \$7 million and \$6 million respectively.

Excluding the Petroleum Sector, CARICOM Agreement Imports were valued at \$147 million and Domestic Exports \$63 million during January to June, 1982.

TEXACO PUSHES EARLY RETIREMENT PLAN DESPITE UNION STAND

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by John Babb]

[Text] Texaco has gone ahead making plans to reduce the pensionable age unilaterally from 65 to 60 by retrenchment if the present discussions with the Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU) fails, a usually reliable source revealed yesterday.

The company recently offered to its employees, 60 years and over, the opportunity to benefit from early retirement by being given credits for the remaining service to age 65.

This offer of gratuitous extension of service years to age 65 would have the effect of automatically eliminating the actuarial discounting which would otherwise have applied for early retirement.

A company letter dated September 15, addressed to the president general of the OWTU, Mr George Weekes, has set out Texaco's formal proposals for amending the staff retirement plan and employees benefit plan rules to permit the change of normal retirement from age 65 to 60. This provides for resulting changes in the provisions for optional early retirement.

According to the proposals, Texaco wants to pay monthly-salaried workers at age 61 and over, the sum of \$112,169 lump-sum with a reduced pension of just over \$3,000 per month (service officers).

Proposals have also been made regarding leading draughtsmen, refinery supervisors and foremen as well as clerks and other workers.

Hanging Fire

A refinery shift supervisor with 16 years service plus a few months would receive \$77,203 lump sum with a reduced pension of more than \$2,200 per month; a leading draughtsman would receive \$67,806 with a reduced pension of more than \$1,900. With regard to the weekly paid, the smallest amount would be paid to maids at age 63 and a few months--\$8,581 lump sum with reduced pension of more than \$624 per month.

Texaco had hoped to implement its plan by October 1 in the event agreement was reached with the union.

But since the plan was put to the union following which talks were held with the Minister of Labour, the matter has been hanging fire.

In the initial move some 800 workers were slated to go but the company stayed its hands when the OWTU forwarded a letter on the matter. The company then was reported still awaiting a reply from the union to its early retirement plan.

However, the union subsequently informed the company that Texaco's proposed early retirement plan was unacceptable.

The source said yesterday that so far the company and the union have got nowhere near an agreement on the issue. As a result, it was revealed that if the discussions with the union fails Texaco would go ahead on its own and unilaterally implement the plan.

Texaco, which employs about 6,500 hourly, weekly and monthly-rated workers plans to cut back its staff by some 1,500 before the end of the year.

CSO: 3298/127

FARMERS CONFERENCE ASSESSES PROBLEMS, PROPOSALS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

MORE THAN 80 per cent of all farmers in Trinidad and Tobago are landless, deprived of any security of tenure on the land while "foreign multi-nationals, the State and the big landlords own and control large areas of land use their monopoly to make huge profits and the farmers face a most uncertain future."

Thus shouted a motion passed at the conference on Sunday of the Trinidad and Tobago Farmers Association national conference at the Rienzi Complex, Couva.

Two hundred delegates and other participants listened to a battery of speakers who outlined the country's agricultural problems and recommended solutions.

The problems, they generally reported, consisted of lack of full security of land tenure, immediate flood prevention measures, and proper marketing facilities, among other things.

One of the main speakers at the conference commented: "The crisis has been going on since the '60s (and) included declining production, increasing debt burden for the farmers, the worsening situation in land tenure, infrastructure and marketing facilities.

"Local monopolies, big landlords and the State have

found it more profitable to import food in large quantities rather than sort out the problems in agriculture.

"The crisis has not been caused by mismanagement by the Government.

"This crisis, like the crisis in the rest of the economy, is caused by the capitalist system itself. The small and medium farmers are small producers and the ruination of small producers and the monopolisation of various sectors of the economy is constant feature of capitalist production.

BIG MONOPOLIES

"The present plans of the government, based on developing agriculture to replace the declining incomes from oil, will not stop the trend but would further aggravate it.

"Small farmers will be completely eliminated as independent producers and will be reduced to labourers for the big monopolies and State through a system of contracts and further indebtedness to the Agricultural Development Bank, in particular.

"These solutions will in no way lessen the crisis but will further aggravate it.

"Certain organisations

(like some other farmers' associations) are misleading the farmers, proposing the same solutions like the Ministry of Agriculture and preventing the further development of the farmers' struggles to win their demands.

RICH MUST PAY

"The crisis is not caused by the farmers, by low productivity, but by the rich and the capitalist system. Therefore, the farmers must not be made to pay for the crisis. The rich must be made to pay.

"The important task confronting the farmers at this time is for them to develop their struggle to win all the demands they have advanced and above all the demand for full security of tenure."

Four resolutions were adopted by the conference.

They called for (a) expropriation of land without compensation to the big companies and big landlords concerned, (b) retention of the San Juan market at its present site, with necessary improvement of facilities, (c) redoubling by farmers of efforts to build the TIFA to fight for the demands of farmers, and (d) support to the T and TEC workers" as an expression of the unity between the workers and farmers."

BRIEFS

AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS--Work has begun to rehabilitate the runway and taxiway of Piarco airport and to replace the runway and taxiway lighting. The joint-venture project, costing \$23,189,231 is being carried out by Marentette Brothers Limited (MBL) of Canada and Alves Construction Company, under Government-to-Government arrangements. The work is to be done in three stages. Rehabilitation of the runway and runway lighting at Crown Point Airport in Tobago is also part of the contract. The schedule for work in Tobago is still tentative and is being finalised. The plan is for it to be done in two stages. A release from the Airports Authority yesterday stated that Stage I of the work at Piarco is expected to be completed by December 20 this year. Stage II, which will begin the day after, is expected to be completed by February 5, 1983 and the final stage by March next year. The contract calls for completion of the entire project including the Tobago section within 360 days of commencement of work which began last Monday. According to the release, the National Insurance and Property Development Copaany (NIPDEC) will represent the interest of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. Transport Canada is providing engineering, technical and quality control services and assistance on the project. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Oct 82 p 3]

VENEZUELAN DIPLOMATS--The Venezuelan Embassy in Port-of-Spain last week said Hello and Goodbye to four senior members of staff. At a cocktail reception at the Holiday Inn friends and the diplomatic corps said farewell to Sr Francisco Iturbe and his wife who left on Sunday for Kingston Jamaica. For Sr Iturbe it was his second spell in Trinidad. He is now the Charge D'Affaires in Jamaica. His friend Sr Francisco Alvarez Corsira (they both worked together in Canada) has succeeded him in Port-of-Spain. Other new faces Sr Iturbe introduced were Sr Carlos Gonzalez, new Attache Seniorita Villegas Velia, First Secretary. The new Ambassador, Sr Amry Touron Lugo is expected here next week. In this Maurice Brown picture (left to right) are Sr Iturbe, Sr Alvarez, Seniorita Velia and Sr Gonzalez. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Nov 82 p 17]