

B A B A
A B O S

GETTING IT BACK
TOGETHER

BARBADOS

THE MANIFESTO OF
THE
DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY

GENERAL ELECTION 1981

**D. L. P. MANIFESTO 1981
CORRECTIONS**

PAGE	5	Line	2 22	Substitute "THEIR for "This". Substitute "D.L.P." for "B.L.P."
PAGE	7	Line	1	Delete "concentrating in centers" and substitute "granting incentives only to those"
PAGE	10	Line	13 34	Substitute "meaningful" for "meaningful" Insert the word "food" between the word "provide" and the word "at".
page	12	Line	35	Substitute "strategy" for "stragegy"
PAGE	13	Line	17 29	Insert "5)" before "i)" Substitute "centres" for "centers"
PAGE	15	Line	19	Substitute "barrels" for "barrles"
PAGE	16	Line	19	Delete "to"
PAGE	18	Line	36	Substitute "Enforce" for "Pass
PAGE	19	Line	6 16	Substitute " our" for "or" Substitute "employers" for "employees"
PAGE	20	Line	31	Substitute "contributions" for "benefits"
PAGE	21	Line	6 11 15 33	Insert "itself to" between "addresses" and "the" Substitute "maternal" for "material" Substitute "mellitus" for "melites" Delete "adult education expose larger segments of" and substitute "active programmes educate".
PAGE	22	Line	24	Substitute "of" for "fo"
PAGE	23	Line	1 14 18	Substitute "hygienists" for "hygiensts" Substitute "ophthalmic" for "ophthalmic". Substitute "of" for "fo"
PAGE	26	Line	32	Substitute "c)" for "3)",
PAGE	28	Line	11 24	Substitute "established" for "appointed". Substitute "age" for "ae"
PAGE	29	Line	10 25	Delete "its" Include "in" between "urgency" and "national"
PAGE	30			Delete entire page.
PAGE	31	Line	19	Substitute 'of" for "fo".
PAGE	32	Line	7 29	Substitute "loss" for "los". Substitute "review" for "view"
PAGE	33	Line	21 30 33	Substitute "has" for "as" Delete "constraints of defamation and" and substitute "for" Substitute "principle" for "principal"
PAGE	34	Line	15 34	Substitute "subservient" for "Subserviant" Substitute "our" for "out"
PAGE	35	Line	15 Line 22	Substitute "favourable" for "favorable" Substitute "Scandinavia" for "Scandanavia"
PAGE	36	Line	27	Substitute "identify" for "indentify".

FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

In 1976 the electorate decided by a narrow majority of 412 persons that it would experiment with a change of government. Such was their right. You have now had five years in which to judge whether that was a correct decision — or an extravagant experiment.

Some of the factors on which you will make this judgment are:

- the destruction of the system of Price Controls
- the resultant vast increase in the cost of every—day living
- the total failure to solve the problem of unemployment especially amongst the young
- the decline of our non—sugar agriculture
- the unprecedented crime wave
- the demoralisation of our Police Force
- the open peddling of drugs
- the proliferation of one-armed bandits
- the neglect of our Tourism product
- the crumbling of our roads
- the breakdown of our bus transportation
- the doubling of our National Debt
- the transfer of the main burden of taxation to those least able to pay by the imposition of a Consumption Tax on over 2,000 items.

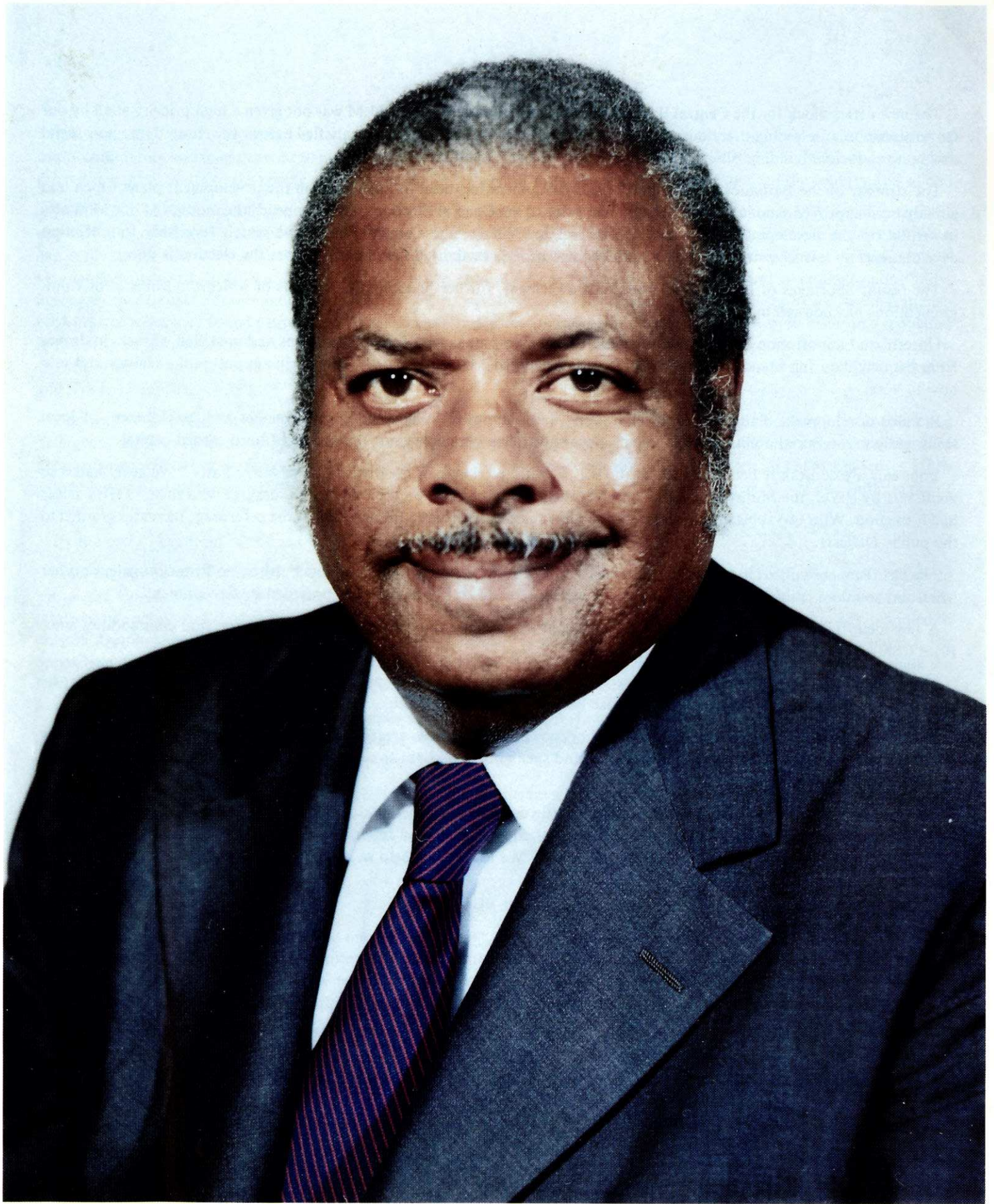
You will recall the host of Commissions of Enquiry for which you have had to pay. Only one served a useful purpose when the Duffus Commission gave the lie to the wild charges of corruption in the D.L.P. Government which helped the other people to win the election. Another expensive Commission shed no further light on the foul murder of a young Barbadian after the Government had refused to call in outside help to solve the crime.

Sometimes you may ask yourself what new developments have taken place since 1976 as a result of the extravagant promises made by the B.L.P. Early one morning in May I went to the extreme north of the island and worked my way back through the coastal and inland parishes to the south coast with two cameras. I photographed all the Government projects:

- a) about to start
- b) just started
- c) in process
- d) recently completed
- e) initiated and completed during the past four years and eight months.

The photographs which appear in this booklet are a permanent record and a tribute to the foresight and planning of the Democratic Labour Party, which was accused of running out of ideas by some persons who should know better and who now occupy prominent positions in the waning sectors of social activity.

In addition to those projects which have been included there are others such as the Post Office at Welchman Hall, the Roebuck School, the housing estate at Wotton Christ Church which were all the result of planning and formulation by the Democratic Labour Party.



RT. HON. ERROL WALTON BARROW
PRESIDENT
AND
POLITICAL LEADER

The new office block for the Central Bank at Spry Street estimated to cost \$33.M was not given a high priority at all by our Government because we felt that housing needs of Barbados would first have to be satisfied before we ventured into non-social and non-productive building programmes of this nature and magnitude.

The strategy of the Barbados Labour Party on Development has been to hold back on the development plans which had already been approved unanimously by Parliament prior to the General Elections, try to impeach the motives of our Ministers in setting up the development projects e.g. the Holiday Village, the Cement Plant, and search feverishly for different developments — unsuccessfully. Create an atmosphere of hyperactivity a few months before the election is due.

The result: Shortages of building materials such as cement, further breaking up of roads of which the Minister of Communications has boasted in Parliament.

Unrestricted importation of foreign construction companies, managers, foremen, artisans and unskilled workers in droves from the neighbouring islands; transported like cattle; handled I.D. cards shortly after arriving; put on the register and told how to vote.

Planned development requires manpower training and manpower budgeting. Encouragement and development of local skills and entrepreneurial ability. Development is not short term gimmickry nor the export of hard earned capital.

Your ears are constantly being assailed by the B.L.P. with the slogan of the British Conservative Party “We never had it so good.” If by “We” the Ministers mean themselves then it is impossible on the evidence to disagree with them. THEY never had it so good. With two substantial increases in salaries since October 1976 far in excess of the percentage increases granted to the public Officers.

The D.L.P. is committed to rolling back the salaries of Ministers and Parliamentarians. Further, no Prime Minister or other Minister should be entitled to draw an allowance if he elects not to live in premises provided by Government.

A few identifiable merchants never had it so good either, because they charge what they like for vital commodities since Price Controls have been dismantled.

The law breakers who get amnesty and those who are never caught; the drug peddlers and those who organize them; the persons who sell influence and favours. All of those have never had it so good.

It is time to return to sanity and probity. A dependency phobia has been created by the government controlled media in the minds of many of our citizens. Afraid to speak up and speak out. The right to a job or a place to live is all dependent on acquiescence to Ministers.

Our view is that Governments should interfere as little as possible in the lives of the people. Government should concern itself with those things only which enable the citizens to enjoy a better and fuller life.

In short, we wish to give Barbados back to the people. We ask you to help us to get it back together.

Errol Barrow

A BASIC ISSUE

It is customary for Political Parties to introduce their Election Manifestos with an overall examination of current concerns of the community and to endeavour to persuade the reader that this particular Party is best qualified to right the wrongs, to improve the quality of life of the people and to summon up its ingenuity and energy for the betterment of the country as a whole.

In this General Election 1981, however, there is at least one basic issue on which the D.L.P. and the B.L.P. are diametrically opposed and on which the viewpoints are well known and can be clearly understood. It is one, therefore, on which each voter can easily decide where his or her best interest lies. The issue is Price Controls. The record of the two Parties on this matter is very straight-forward. In 1970 a Prices Commission was established by the D.L.P. Government and given the responsibility, amongst other things, of examining the price structure of basic necessities of life. The Commission was to advise the responsible Minister when they found instances in which controls might reasonably be implemented which would result in a reduction in the price to the consumer while allowing a fair profit for the merchant or shopkeeper. This Commission had a wide cross-section of the community represented in its membership including for example, housewives, economists, small shopkeepers and Trade-Unionists.

Controls were not only imposed in this way on basic foodstuffs but on many other necessary commodities such as soaps and detergents, cement, furniture and some items of clothing. The justification for the establishment of such a Commission can be demonstrated with a few examples of their findings — some refrigerators were found to be marked up 111% and stoves 115% — one brand of toothpaste had a wholesale mark-up of 228% while the mark-up of various types of one particular make of sewing machine ranged from 225% to 421%.

By the end of the term of office of the D.L.P. 83 items were price controlled in this way.

Since September 1976 the Prices Commission has not met. It has not been formally disbanded. The Government has seen to it that the Commission simply has not functioned. During that time the control of prices on many commodities has been removed by successive B.L.P. Ministers of Consumer Affairs. Today the number of items under price control has dwindled to only 38. Despite repeated appeals from Women's Organizations, Trade Unions, Consumer Organizations, the official B.L.P., opposition and even the Barbados Labour Party's Annual Conference, the B.L.P. has steadfastly continued to dismantle the Price Control System. Everyone is aware of the consequences of the unprecedented increases in the cost of living.

The D.L.P. wishes to re-assure the small shopkeepers in the community that such a policy is in no way intended to endanger their means of livelihood. It is not a policy which is directed *against* anyone. It is a policy on behalf of the vast majority of people of Barbados, most especially the poorer persons amongst us.

There are many matters contained in this Manifesto which warrant your serious consideration and the D.L.P. hopes that you will read them carefully. But you will inevitably single this out from all the other disturbing issues when deciding for whom to cast your vote. Is it in your personal interest that the price of various basic commodities is fairly controlled — or not?

It is a matter for you to decide — and vote accordingly.

TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS

The first problem is that of employment and unemployment. The Government has juggled around with statistics in an effort to demonstrate that it has reduced unemployment levels during the past four years. They have conveniently consigned a large number of persons of working age to a new category of the "voluntary idle" and they omit to mention that approximately 5000 (Five thousand) persons leave Barbados for the U.S.A. alone on permanent visas each year.

The Government admits only to 10% unemployment in mid 1981 even after their statistical conjuring. If that is so, then there are at least 12,000 persons who need jobs who cannot find them. The Democratic Labour Party promises after being elected to implement a scheme whereby the unproductive unemployed will acquire skills, will be granted a basic income while training and employers will be encouraged, not by taxation, but by direct payment to take on and train workers younger and older until they can be fully absorbed into full time productive employment. This means immediate activity for all job seekers

over fifteen years of age. We shall also promote a scheme of bringing work to the workers to be known as JOIN (Job Opportunities In your Neighbourhood), thereby reducing the stress on our transportation system during peak hours and creating a higher level of small community involvement in economic activity.

The second problem is Housing. The B.L.P. has given lame excuses for its failure to come to grips with the housing shortage and to live up to its election promises. They claim that their boast to provide housing included the private sector. But the private sector does not build houses for poor families or workers in low income groups. In Singapore with a population of 2 million persons in an area only fifty square miles larger than Barbados, the Government has provided housing for over 60% of the population.

Until we can ensure that our people are adequately and decently housed in accommodations which they can afford, we will continue to be plagued with social problems for which the community will have to pay a high price.

In our section on housing we set out our targets and proposals to House our Nation.

After you have studied our programme on Prices, Employment and Housing, you should have no difficulty in knowing who to vote for.

FACING THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

The Barbadian economy is entering into a state of deep crisis. In spite of the B.L.P. rhetoric to the contrary, the danger signs are there for all to see. The major problems facing the Barbadian economy are as follows:

- A chronic and socially undesirable high level of unemployment, manifested through increasing crimes against property and through disillusionment among the youth;
- An alarming upsurge in the level of inflation;
- A rapid decline in the purchasing power of the Barbados dollar accompanying the steep rise in prices;
- An impending balance of payments problem;
- A burdensome increase in the level of indirect taxation that is especially oppressive on the poor in our society;
- A rapid, persistent, and disturbing increase in the national debt;
- Low levels of agricultural productivity and economic privation facing small farmers.

The nature of these problems is a clear reflection of the B.L.P. government's policy trend to assist the privileged few in our society at the expense of the poor masses and the struggling middle classes. Their total indifference to the crying need for price controls, and their gross neglect of the social services leading to a decline in the quality of life, merely mirror their indifference to suffering, as well as their inability to devise socially appropriate solutions.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Today it is reliably estimated that some twenty thousand able-bodied Barbadians are out of work. That is shocking. What is more shocking is that some 4,000 persons have been discarded into a category called "the voluntarily idle." But what is most shocking is that almost 70% or 14,000 persons of the 20,000 unemployed are under 25 years of age.

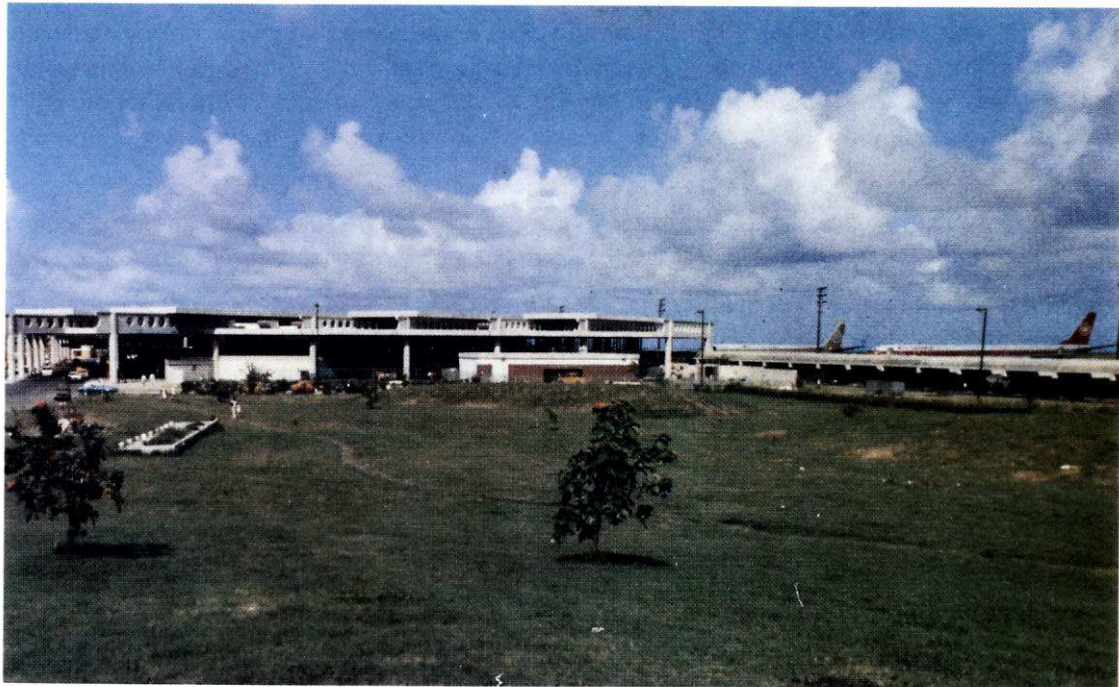
The Democratic Labour Party is unswervingly committed to the objective of full employment in a free society. Towards this end we pledge ourselves to adopt an active employment policy which will include the following measures:

- 1) a) the setting up of "Employment Centres" staffed by employment placement and guidance counsellors.
- b) the complete reorganization of the employment training programmes (now inadequate both in quantity and quality) in order to link these programmes into employment opportunities and national objectives.

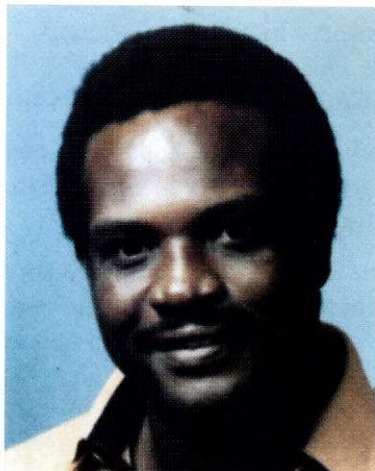
ERROL BARROW



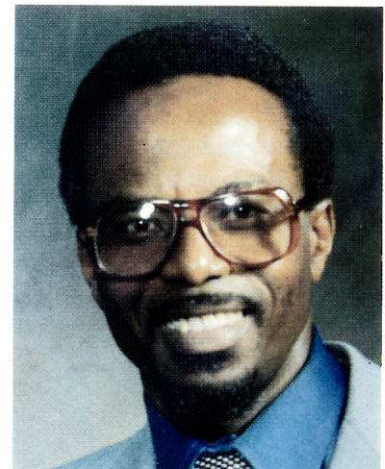
(ST. JOHN)



AIRPORT
(ANOTHER D.L.P. PROJECT)



HAROLD BLACKMAN
(ST. PHILIP SOUTH)



WARWICK FRANKLIN
(ST. PHILIP NORTH)

- 2) Provision of new investment possibilities in manufacturing by the stimulation of small business and by concentrating in centers on foreign investment projects with a high employment content;
- 3) Granting of tax concessions to businessmen investing in productive sectors of the economy, particularly in export manufacturing;
- 4) The stimulation of agro-industries, and craft and cottage industries. Strong linkages will be established with the hotel and tourist market.

INFLATION

When the Democratic Labour Party handed over the reins of government to the B.L.P. in September 1976 the annual rate of price increase was a mere 2 percent. The sound policy of our party in maintaining an effective Price Control System to control inflation was obviously succeeding.

However, immediately after assuming power, the B.L.P. dismantled the Price Control System. Immediately too, under B.L.P. management and ever since then, there has been a persistent and burdensome rise in the general price level. By the end of December 1976 the inflation rate rose to 5 percent. By the end of 1977 it climbed to 8.3 percent. By the end of 1978 it jumped to 9.5 percent. By the end of 1979 it leapt to 13.1 percent. And by the end of 1980 it soared to 14.4 percent.

The rapid increase of prices since 1976 especially in the retail sector suggests that a definite policy to protect everyone, but particularly the poor, from the ravages of inflation is an immediate priority. The problem can best be tackled within the context of an overall economic policy with special emphasis on PRICE CONTROLS.

The Democratic Labour Party pledges itself to institute a system of Selective Price Controls on essential goods in order to protect the economic welfare of all the people, particularly the poor who suffer most of all from rapid increases in prices, and in order to encourage better management of retail outlets.

The party also pledges itself to:

- a) reduce the incidence of indirect taxes on certain essential goods and services;
- b) seek to exert more influence on interest rates at commercial banks in order to lower the cost of domestically produced manufactured products;
- c) reform the price-fixing mechanisms in respect of public utility companies in order to ensure a better deal for consumers;
- d) modify the import of certain unnecessary and usually high-priced brand name products;
- e) increase agricultural productivity;
- f) further increase the benefits under the national insurance scheme; and ensure that these and similar benefits, including pensions, are adjusted regularly in order to keep pace with the cost of living.

VALUE OF BARBADOS DOLLAR

Due to the economic mismanagement of the B.L.P. government, the value of the Barbados dollar when compared with its value in September 1976 is worth less than 58.7 cents today! It means that your dollar will only just cover half the amount of goods that it would have bought in 1976.

The Democratic Labour Party promises to correct this miserable trend by protecting the value of your dollar, by introducing price controls to steady the rapid increase in the prices of goods and services, and by stimulating the economy for greater growth and productivity.

IMPENDING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM

Barbados' Balance of Payments situation is a matter of deep concern. We have been increasingly importing more goods than we have been exporting. For example, up to the end of August 1976 our visible imports exceeded our exports by some \$182.3 million. Alas, under B.L.P. management, the balance of trade deficit has worsened dangerously to a figure of \$608,422,000 for 1980.

The B.L.P. government has hurriedly had to divert a \$20 million line of credit from the government of Trinidad and Tobago from its original purpose into a loan of \$18,000,000 to finance a balance of payments deficit and to boost up the foreign exchange reserves. A \$20 million Euro-Dollar loan had to be sought for general budgetary support and a further \$48 million from the Trinidad private sector for the same reason. The B.L.P. also had to streak to the Compensatory Financing Facility of the International Monetary Fund for a loan to prop up the balance of payments. The Central Bank has been ordered from time to time to make it more difficult for citizens to own stoves and refrigerators, as part of stringent measures to deal with balance of payments problems. Also alarming is the fact that our foreign assets are too low, and that our foreign reserves can cover only about fifty days of imports.

The Democratic Labour Party promises to correct the costly errors of judgement made by the government in respect of the management of the Balance of Payments.

Specifically we will:

- i) design a more prudent balance of payments policy;
- ii) increase our exports by stimulating the local economy;
- iii) curb imports of unnecessary items;
- iv) improve our earnings from invisibles;
- v) draw up a contingency plan to deal with the balance of payments crisis that is threatening as a result of B.L.P. overborrowing and other mistakes;
- vi) increase our foreign reserves to cover a longer import period.

TAXATION

No government in the history of Barbados has ever taxed the people of Barbados as heavily as the present Barbados Labour Party government has done! What is even more alarming is that the increased taxation has been imposed under the guise of actually reducing taxation!

More has been taken out of the pockets of Barbadians in taxes than ever before. We have had to pay more in personal income tax, more on our houses and land, more on our food and beverages, more on our gasoline, more on all sorts of items for construction, for agriculture and for manufacturing, more for our light, water, and our cooking gas. Nearly \$800 million in additional taxes have been collected since 1976.

The party wishes to draw particular attention to the economic and social implications of the sharp increase in the level of indirect taxation, especially the heavy Consumption Tax increase of 1980. This heavy reliance on regressive, indirect taxation has resulted in higher inflation and in a marked deterioration in the standard of living of the poorer sections of the community.

The party promises that it will:

- a) reduce consumption taxes on certain items, including essential consumer goods, and on goods used in construction and domestic manufacture;
- b) lower income taxation to socially desirable levels by completely overhauling the system, by removing from the tax roll a substantial number of the lower paid workers, and by providing allowances to cover water and other utilities;

- c) reform the system of land evaluation in order to remove present inequities;
- d) improve the efficiency of the tax administration agency, including the Customs Department;
- e) ensure the government expenditures are efficiently administered in order to ensure a sound cost and benefit relationship;

INCREASE IN NATIONAL DEBT

When in opposition the Barbados Labour Party argued that the National Debt was too high! When that party won the government, it however proceeded to increase the national debt particularly the foreign component, at an unprecedented rate.

Let the statistics speak for themselves. At September 1976 the national debt stood at \$241.1 million. By the end of December 1980 that debt had skyrocketed to \$493.2 million.

Firstly, it must be realized that the rapidly increasing national debt is a burden to us now as taxpayers. For we are taking up out of the taxes we currently pay at least \$60.8 million (up from a low of \$11.1 million in 1976) in order to pay interest on the money outstanding and generally service that debt.

Secondly, the national debt is a millstone around the necks of taxpayers and of future generations of taxpayers. For it has to be repaid at sometime.

In order to moderate the rapid growth of the foreign national debt which the B.L.P. has imposed upon us and which increases the dependence of our economy on other countries, the Democratic Labour Party proposes to encourage and direct private and corporate savings into housing and the productive sectors of the economy by increasing the tax exemption on national development bonds and granting new concessions on productive and housing investments.

AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES

The Democratic Labour Party recognizes that the land and the sea, together with our people, are among the richest resources possessed by Barbados. The Democratic Labour Party recognizes that our food import bill now stands at the unprecedented high level of at least \$133,909,000. The Democratic Labour Party recognizes that some eight hundred million people in the Third World are destitute and cannot afford an adequate diet!

In the face of the urgent imperative to cut down our huge food import bill and to contribute towards relief of world hunger which is one of the most pressing human problems of our time, the Democratic Labour Party promises to restore agriculture to its proper place of importance in the national economy.

Failures of the B.L.P. in agriculture —

- Failure No. 1: Gross neglect of the need to increase food production and reduce the food import bill!
- Failure No. 2: Flagrant dereliction of its responsibility for ensuring an effective system for collecting and disseminating information on agricultural production in Barbados resulting in gluts, shortages and untimely imports.
- Failure No. 3: Poor management of the internal and external arrangements for the marketing of agricultural products. In particular, poor management of the Barbados Marketing Corporation which appears to be in conflict rather than in harmony with both the farmers and the Ministry of Agriculture, and which has been permitted to limp along without a manager for a period of over two years!
- Failure No. 4: Virtual collapse of the Extension Service due to political interference and bullying, poor motivation, and inadequate staff. Extension officers now rarely visit farms and offer advice on good farm management.
- Failure No. 5: Virtual collapse of the Tractor Cultivation Scheme resulting in small farmers being unable to till their land at the right time or for reasonable charge.

- Failure No. 6: Gross neglect of agricultural diversification after the rhetoric of bringing land back into cultivation.
- Failure No. 7: The almost total abandonment of the small farmer to the extent that he is now facing economic ruin.
- Failure No. 8: Distressing unconcern about creating viable agro-industries to reduce the demand for imports and to create employment.
- Failure No. 9: Default in managing the fishing industry efficiently so as to increase total output and guarantee an adequate wage to the fishermen.
- Failure No. 10: Tardiness and failure in stimulating local dairy farming to reduce price increases, and to decrease imports of milk products and meat.
- Failure No. 11: Virtual abandonment of the government agricultural stations such as Sayes Court, Bullens and Jerusalem, resulting in the absence of many useful services and any new research, including research on varieties.
- Failure No. 12: Complete destruction of the Shrimp industry by getting rid of the shrimp boats and through ineptitude in negotiating a shrimping agreement with Brazil.
- Failure No. 13: Willful disregard of any meaningful recognition of and relationship to the Barbados Agricultural Society, which is the farmer's organization.

The foregoing failures which must all squarely be laid on the doorsteps of the Barbados Labour Party government, clearly indicate that Agriculture has been at a standstill or in decline since 1976.

THE NEW FOOD PRODUCTION PROGRAMME

In order to remedy the foregoing and other gross failures of the B.L.P. government in the agricultural sector, the next Democratic Labour Party government proposes to implement a NEW FOOD PRODUCTION PROGRAMME for Barbados. The programme promises a new deal for farmers and workers in agriculture, and for all of us as consumers. It is comprehensive, involving production, preservation, marketing, research and development, training, land reform, revamped agricultural incentives and co-ordinated agricultural advice. Under the programme, the Party undertakes to do the following:

- 1) establish an Agricultural Policy Council to serve as the principal body advising on the formulation and review of agricultural policy. One of its main functions will be to help in developing strategies for a sound agricultural and fisheries programme, and for a reduction in the food import bill. The farming community will be represented on the Council.
- 2) recognize and co-operate fully with the Barbados Agricultural Society as one of the main bodies representing the interests of farmers collectively. The grant to this body will be substantially increased, and the principle of representation and consultation will be duly accorded to it not only in theory but in practice as well.
- 3) re-stimulate and re-direct the energies of the professional and technical staff of the Ministry of Agriculture towards increased food production. An immediate end will be put to the political bullying and hectoring which have completely demoralized the staff. Instead, there will be a co-ordinated and attainable objective of increasing the supply of Barbadian produced carbohydrates, fats, plant animal and fish protein, and other nutrients.
- 4) seek to provide at prices acceptable to the housewife and attractive to the farmer.
- 5) provide outlets in rural areas for supplies of seeds, fertilizers, and agricultural chemicals. Light farming equipment will also be made available at reduced rates.
- 6) completely restructure and expand the tractor cultivation services under a more flexible system of management which responds quickly to requests from farmers, particularly small farmers.

- 7) transform the District Agricultural Stations from being centres of neglect into centres for excellence in agriculture. The Extension Service, which has virtually collapsed, will be provided with additional staff. A positive attitude to the farming community will be encouraged, with the Extension officers giving advice and encouragement to all farmers through regular visits, thereby making for the quick transfer of knowledge and research.
- 8) review and where feasible improve the cushion of agricultural subsidies for increased production.
- 9) simply and speed up the procedures for making credit available to farmers, particularly to the small farmer.
- 10) stimulate the livestock and poultry industries. New stock will be imported periodically for the pig and dairy farmers. Poor direction by the B.L.P. government has resulted in the running down of the Greenland and Sedge Pond Sheep farms. The black belly sheep development programme will be enlivened. The goat population will be increased. The Barbados Agricultural Society will be encouraged to build a poultry processing plant. The effectiveness of the stud services will be extended by distributing good male animals to selected farmers.
- 11) take steps towards the introduction of a crop insurance scheme.
- 12) improve fruit production.
- 13) reduce or remove the duties on agricultural inputs.
- 14) encourage certain farms to form production units growing specific crops, in order to reap the benefits of specialisation, and continuity of production.
- 15) give continued support and encouragement to the sugar industry as a principal agricultural crop. Steps will be taken to further rationalize the industry. Strong support will be given to efforts for making economical use of surplus bagasse, and the cane rind, and for developing a series of secondary and tertiary industries based on sugar, thereby making for an integrated sugar industry.
- 16) establish a Market Intelligence Service in collaboration with the Barbados Agricultural Society to bring the producer and the market closer together, and increase the flow of information and advice. The service should go a long way towards reducing the periods of gluts, followed by shortages and the importation of foreign commodities at a time when local produce is coming on to the market.
- 17) ensure that local produce is widely available in Barbados through existing or new outlets.
- 18) increase the foreign exchange earnings from agriculture by setting up suitable arrangements for marketing our agricultural products abroad, particularly yam, sweet potato, pumpkin, hot peppers, eddoes, coconuts and breadfruit.
- 19) redefine clearly the goals of the Agricultural Development Corporation and the Barbados Marketing Corporation. The B.L.P. government has very short-sightedly considered these two institutions as purely commercial enterprises with no responsibility for agricultural development. But they have failed and worse, no agricultural development has taken place!
- 20) encourage the development of agro-based industries, and cottage industries, which have been promised but not provided. A food promotion drive will be revived to stimulate wider use and acceptability of locally produced foods. The Experimental Food Production Factory, foolishly closed by the B.L.P. government will be re-opened.
- 21) continue support for the Cane Breeding and Variety Testing Stations, and make top quality cane plants available to farmers at reasonable prices.
- 22) sustain and expand the research on livestock fodders and grasses, using local materials like sugar cane, bagasse and sorghums to produce cheaper nutritious feeds. The B.L.P. government has shown little interest in this, thereby neglecting the vital livestock industry. This is scandalous since 40% of food imports are in the livestock and fish products area.

- 23) determine through research the appropriate crops and livestock which may be most economically produced in marginal or poor lands.
- 24) implement a major programme of land redistribution by making government owned land available to deserving landless persons, including youth, for the purpose of helping to increase agricultural production.
- 25) make agricultural education and training more widely available in the formal education system. In particular the Agricultural Division of the Barbados Community College will be activated to provide courses of varying lengths in areas such as agriculture and horticulture. The number of scholarships for professional and technical training will be increased. The agricultural course at the Polytechnic, started by the Democratic Labour Party, will be upgraded and the graduates will be assisted in finding employment or will be provided with land. Plantation managers and workers at all levels will be offered ongoing courses in modern agriculture and land management techniques.
- 26) assist the 4-H clubs and other youth clubs in their agricultural projects by way of technical advice, subsidies and grants for educational tours.
- 27) re-organize the Fisheries Department and staff it adequately to implement a new fisheries development policy based on the increased supply of fish protein at prices which are stable, reasonable and fair to the consumer, as well as to the fisherman and boat owner.
- 28) develop vessels suitable for distant and high seas fishing. At the same time the coastal fishing fleet will be modernized to extend their operational range and to improve their gear, equipment and safety procedures; while equipment and facilities for beaching and launching boats around the coast will be upgraded.
- 29) ensure that good quality fish is properly handled, stored, marketed and widely distributed to households throughout Barbados.
- 30) urgently re-activate the shrimp industry which has been callously allowed to collapse by the B.L.P. government.

INDUSTRY

The Industrial Development Programme which the Democratic Labour Party started in 1962 has borne successful fruit. Today Barbados stands unique among developing countries as a model for Industrial Development.

No new initiatives have emerged during the five (5) years of the Barbados Labour Party's rule. On the contrary, reverses have appeared in certain areas.

Offshore companies have been allowed to gain the impression that they have to pay only lip service to such constitutional guarantees of fundamental rights such as trade union membership, security of job during maternity confinement, and advancement of Barbadians into higher echelon positions. Workers have not been encouraged to feel part of the development exercise. Rather, they have been treated as aliens in their own country.

Furthermore, there is evidence that, under the B.L.P. government, over-seas investors have been encouraged to promote monopolistic tendencies entirely out of step with twentieth century practices in progressive countries. Such attitudes are destructive and dangerous.

A Democratic Labour Party Government will restore the industrialisation programme to its premier place in the development strategy for the 1980's and 1990's. The Party is of the view that while continuing foreign investment is necessary, the development process in Barbados has reached a stage where greater local participation must take place not only at the investment level but in the sharing of advanced Technological development.

To this end, the Party will prepare an industrial development plan which will, among other things,

- * Rationalise further the location of industry;
- * Provide a code of behaviour for overseas investors;
- * Provide factory space for small manufacturers at low rentals;

- * Provide a minimum wage for categories of industry;
- * Provide for the establishment of a design centre;
- * The Party will once again make it possible for local manufacturers to acquire factory premises from the IDC on a lease-purchase basis.

Additionally, it promises to:

- 1) Invest in non-traditional industries to enable more Barbadians to participate in ownership of such industries, exporting to North America and European Markets;
- 2) Create other agro-based industries centred around the Animal Feeds Plant and Flour Mill which are D.L.P. projects now in the process of development, and the Food Manufacturing Company, which after five (5) years has not yet been started;
- 3) Establish medium-scale canning and packaging facilities, designed to preserve excess production from a revitalized farming sector, which has languished under the misdirection of the last five (5) years;
- 4) Recognise the vital contribution that local manufacturers have been making to the economy in terms of employment opportunities and export earnings; note that these manufacturers have been experiencing grave problems in securing reasonable access to the markets of certain CARICOM countries, while the government has been permitting virtual unrestricted entry of CARICOM goods into the Barbados market;
 - i) encourage and give full support to the manufacturers in their efforts to increase exports;
 - ii) re-establish the policy of (a) urging importers to divert some of their resources into manufacturing, and (b) existing manufacturers to expand.

HANDICRAFTS

The D.L.P. Government created a handicraft development plan in 1974 which still forms the basis of handicraft development in the country, and whose success is unchallenged even by B.L.P., which has attempted to continue its implementation.

It is estimated that the Handicraft Industry, when better organised, should provide meaningful employment for more than 2,000 persons.

The Party will draw up a New Development Plan for Handicrafts to provide additional employment and earn valuable revenue.

The Plan will include:

- * A guaranteed fair price for agreed products from all local Handicrafters, ensuring that there is no exploitation;
- * The establishment of new rural centers for the development and outlet of handicraft products;
- * Outlets for handicraft items at all the major hotels in Barbados;
- * Development of new and profitable Barbadian raw material;
- * Scholarships for young persons with aptitude for Fashion design, Handicraft design and other similar pursuits;
- * Development and advancement of the Pottery Industry;
- * Development of the Ceramics Industry, from which a substantial part of the crockery used in Barbados will be produced.

The Handicraft Industry will be linked more firmly with the Tourist Industry, as well as with our Agricultural development.

The Party promises to spare no effort in its pursuit of the development of this vital area of independent industrial progress in Barbados. In order to ensure the most efficient and dynamic implementation of our handicraft development plan, the Party

will establish a separate Corporation to administer the affairs of the Handicraft Industry, with participation by the persons involved in the industry.

HELPING SMALL BUSINESS

The Democratic Labour Party recognises that the small man has built this country. It is determined that the small man must not be driven out of the economic and social life of this country. To this end, the Party will maintain a special sector of the economy for the small businessman, the shopkeepers, the self-employed and the small company.

The Party further believes that small business offers great opportunities for dynamic, energetic, creative persons. It therefore promises to take urgent steps to ensure that advice and practical assistance will flow freely and without unnecessary red tape to the small business sector, and to encourage the small man to venture into business.

The Party will take the following steps:

- 1) Prepare a list of opportunities for starting small business;
- 2) Provide advice on the best forms of business organisation, location, financing, layout, franchising, personnel, and regulations affecting businessmen;
- 3) Give guidance in the areas of budgeting, forecasting, profit margins, record keeping, insurance management, cost control, credit management, market research, promotion and advertising, pricing, inventories, and procurement;
- 4) Make the following types of loans available to small business:
 - a) direct and immediate participation loans
 - b) loan guarantees
 - c) group loans
 - d) disaster loans
 - e) opportunity loans to those who have no collateral and who are unable to obtain loans elsewhere
- 5) Establish a Small Business Division within the administration to direct and co-ordinate services to the small business sector.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The cost of all utilities has increased by crippling amounts under the Barbados Labour Party Government. For example, metered water rates have gone up by some 143%, the fixed rates by some 141%, and the commercial rates by some 159%.

The price of bottled gas was increased under the present Government by as much as 112%. The price of \$72.20 for a 100-lb. cylinder is still 95.1% over the 1976 figure. Consumption tax is charged on the containers of liquified gas! Consumption tax is even charged on natural gas itself!

The cost of electricity has increased by more than 125% since 1976. The consumers are now being called upon to contribute over \$90 million to the expansion programme of the Barbados Light and Power Company.

The Democratic Labour Party is fully committed to the principle of an essential needs policy under which the essential needs of all Barbadians for decent living will be met. The provision of water, gas and electricity is included in this commitment. One of our greatest achievements as a Party has been that by 1976, over 95% of the people in urban and 70% in the rural areas has piped water in their homes; and that electricity was available to every rural community in the island.

The Party promises to:

- 1) Ensure that natural gas is extended more widely throughout Barbados, particularly in the densely populated areas. It is palpably wrong that persons living in areas where natural gas mains pass are still without the facility of natural gas.
- 2) Completely restructure the Public Utilities Board and provide it with the necessary staff resources for carrying out continuous investigative work. This will ensure that the Board is able to carry out its responsibilities to the public by monitoring the quality of service provided by the utilities, and by securing reasonable and fair rates to the consumer.

By this means, it is envisaged that the need for costly hearings will be eliminated to a large extent, thus helping to keep the cost of utilities within reasonable limits.

ENERGY

Five years after B.L.P. government, the energy needs of Barbados continue to be dealt with in terms of vacuous statements from time to time, the latest of which promises lagoons in Bathsheba. The Democratic Labour Party believes that a comprehensive energy policy is urgently needed if present and future Barbadians are to continue to enjoy constant delivery of our total energy requirements.

The Democratic Labour Party stands committed to the concept of a consolidated approach to energy distribution. A National Corporation to administer and rationalize the production, importation and sale of petroleum and petroleum products ought to have been functional by this time. The Party will see to it that such a corporation is not only established, but that it gets on with the job.

REFINING

Barbados has a 3,000 barrels per day refinery owned and operated by Mobil Oil Barbados Limited. The refinery is reportedly incurring repeated losses which, if continued, may result in the termination of its operation.

In 1974 the United Nations Development Programme was requested by the Democratic Labour Party Government to examine the refinery operations and advise on its present and future capabilities.

The examination revealed that by modern standards the existing refinery is old and poorly designed. Storage capacity is insufficient, safety conditions are poor and the plant is crowded into too small an area. The refinery, it claimed, is capable of meeting the present and future demands of the island for gasoline, kerosene, diesel, fuel oil (except bunkering) and asphalt up to 1982 only.

It also revealed that the cost of these products is high. Gasoline for example costs 20¢ per gallon more to manufacture here than if it were imported.

Local crude is only marginally cheaper than the OPEC prices. A cost and benefit analysis of the local refinery operation will therefore have to be pursued by the new Democratic Labour Party Government in order to reduce the cost of refined products to the general public.

TOURISM

No sooner had the new Ministerial appointments been announced in 1976 than the D.L.P. pointed out that the vital tourist industry would be bound to suffer as a result of having been assigned as the last and least responsibility of a Minister with numerous other duties. That is exactly what has come to pass.

Never before in the history of tourism in Barbados have Hotels been obliged to work staff week-on week-off during the months of January and March as many did during the recent winter season. Never have there been such gloomy prospects for the summer season as there are in 1981. The Government is in large measure to blame for this situation by its neglect and lack of attention.

Day to day tourism business impinges on every other Ministry and Department of Government. It consequently demands constant attention at the highest level in order to control and regulate developments as well as to maintain our high reputation as a resort. It is not sufficient for the Minister to read an occasional speech prepared by a Civil Servant.

As a consequence of five years of neglect, lack of understanding and concern, many negative developments have had an adverse effect on the attitudes of Barbadians towards tourism and tourists. This has been the beginning of the end of tourism in other countries. Examples are:

- * Conflict between the Government, the Windows to the Sea group, and the St. James Beach Hotel Company over Windows to the Sea and access to the beach.
- * The substantial increase in permits given to non-Barbadians to operate tourism-oriented businesses which were reserved for Barbadians under the D.L.P. Government — water-sports operations, restaurants, bars and boutiques for example.
- * The proliferation of signs, billboards and hoardings which cannot but be detrimental to the environment in which we live. This is especially noticeable in Holetown and Rockley.
- * The uncontrolled growth in hotel and apartment accommodations which, in times when the number of arrivals is not increasing, can only weaken the existing businesses especially the smaller locally owned ones.
- * The B.L.P.'s declared policy of denying financial assistance from the Development Bank to Hotel projects of less than 20 rooms which effectively prevents small investors from sharing in the fruits of the Hotel Industry and reserves them for those who have greater amounts of capital at their disposal.

While Barbadians have been increasingly 'turned-off' to tourism by these developments, other things have taken place which have begun to 'turn-off' tourists. Among these are:

- * The very high prices being charged in many establishments by Hoteliers. This is due to some extent, to the inflationary costs of building materials, food, utilities and services. Yet Government refuses to control prices.
- * The appalling increase in crime, including crime against visitors which can quickly tarnish the good name of Barbados far and wide. Yet the Government says there is no crime wave.
- * The blatant peddling of drugs on beaches and other public places.
- * The unhealthy and unsightly heaps of garbage which are to be found on streets, around the playing fields and even along the sides of country roads.
- * The inefficiency of our public transportation system and the near-anarchy which prevails at bus depots — many visitors cannot afford to hire cars and taxis, and depend on the buses to get around the country.

In addition to undertaking to repair this kind of damage which has been done in the past five years, the D.L.P. Government will also concern itself with the following urgent matters:

- * Little or no effort has been made by the present Government to promote the use of the Dover Convention Centre which was a prime tourism asset which they inherited from the D.L.P. Government. This lack of initiative meant that the 83 small businesses offering accommodation to visitors within a two-mile radius of the Centre have not benefitted from its establishment as the D.L.P. Government had intended they should. This deficiency will be promptly remedied.
- * The Party will ensure that access to our beaches is provided at more frequent intervals. Developers of beach land will be required to provide public access to the beaches in such circumstances.
- * The Party believes that more can be done to ensure that agriculture and tourism are mutually beneficial. There is at present no mechanism providing for dialogue between the producers, the consumers and hoteliers so that beneficial linkages may be established. The D.L.P. Government will take steps to encourage and facilitate such consultation.

There is also a need for greater linkages with regard to Handicrafts. The advice of Hoteliers and others in tourism will be sought to determine what needs to be done to ensure that those engaged in the Handicrafts Industry benefit from the growth of tourism.

The Party hereby re-states that its over-riding principle in Tourism development is that all things must be measured against the basic rights and well-being of the people of Barbados. Nothing can be permitted for the sake of tourism which is contrary to that principle.

MEETING THE HOUSING NEED

One of the most pressing needs confronting Barbadians is the desire for more and better housing. It has been estimated that the present Government in any one year has been meeting somewhat less than ten (10%) percent of the demands of persons wishing to rent housing, while a mere three (3%) percent of those wishing land for house-spots are helped! These are very depressing facts when placed against the badly broken election promise of the Barbados Labour Party to build "at least 800 houses per year," and to provide land and facilities at reasonable rent for all persons so wishing.

During its term of office, the Dems built 3,550 houses, repaired or replaced over 700 houses for old aged pensioners, and made loans totalling \$8.0 million to persons for housing purposes. Eden Lodge, Silver Hill, Wildey, Deacons Farm, Haynesville, Friendship Terrace and Wanstead are solid examples of the purposeful and successful implementation of plans for meeting the needs of people for efficient and attractive housing. Clapham Park for the residents from the depressed Chapman Lane area, and Sion Hill for those from the Spring Head area which had no services, are also good examples of the concern of the Democratic Labour Party to improve the lot of the masses.

Most of the programmes executed by the present Government have been programmes left behind by our Party, e.g., Lodge Terrace, Oxnards, Free Hill, Wildey, Sion Hill, Orange Hill, Wotton and Clapham. These should have been executed much earlier, and at much less cost to the taxpayer!

The next D.L.P. Government will base its housing policy on the following principles:

- ** Recognition that Barbadians are entitled to adequate housing.
- ** Awareness that housing which is safe and adequate makes a direct contribution to health, productivity and economic development.
- ** That all Barbadians should be assisted directly or given incentives to have access to adequate housing.
- ** That new housing provision should be used as a means of distributing the population more evenly on land resources, making for a better mix between urban and rural development.
- ** That housing must form an integral part of the national development plan.
- ** That the provision of housing must be closely interwoven with the related requirements for roads, transport, utilities, waste disposal, health, recreational, educational and other social and commercial in-puts.

Among the measures which the Party will take in implementation of its housing policy will be:

- 1) Provision of freehold building sites with facilities and services for those in need of land for siting their own homes.
- 2) Improvement of the existing housing stock.
- 3) Implementation of our promise to sell land and houses on the housing estates such as Bayville to tenants desiring to purchase them. The transfer of titles to the properties will be speeded up in order to enable people to get on with their own private developments. The application of the condominium principle to multi-unit housing.
- 4) Re-development of certain housing estates such as Bayville and Pinelands.
- 5) Urban renewal in over-crowded and rundown areas.

- 6) The revival of plans for rural housing development, foolishly abandoned by the Barbados Labour Party Government.
- 7) The development of a pre-fab unit team within the National Housing Corporation to provide for sale to the public, pre-fab components for re-assembly by purchasers on their own lands.
- 8) The granting of appropriate incentives such as easier mortgages to further facilitate the ownership of houses by lower middle-income persons.
- 9) The encouragement of co-operation between government agencies and non-governmental agencies for the purpose of (a) including houses for the senior citizens in new housing developments, and (b) improving conditions of persons living on plantation and other tenancies.
- 10) Termination of the present degrading system under which members of the public who wish to rent a house or house spot, or otherwise require the services of the Housing Ministry consider that they have to trek to the private premises of the Minister for his good offices. A fair and equitable system for the allocation of houses and other services, free of political partisanship, will be established.
- 11) The devising of a system, fair to both owners of rented premises and to the tenants, in order to ensure that the tenants meet their obligations, and that the owners provide premises which meet certain basic standards.

ROADS

The Democratic Labour Party is committed to the development of a network system of roads which will enable easy access to different parts of Barbados, which permit people and goods to move safely and efficiently within Barbados, and which are socially desirable.

It is to be noted that within this framework, D.L.P. conceived projects such as the Halls Road/Belmont Road Roundabout; the Spring Garden by-pass road and aspects of the Outer Ring Road involving the St. Barnabas Road are only now being implemented by the Barbados Labour Party.

The Party promises that it will:

- * Continue its programme of highway improvement;
- * Concentrate its efforts on providing adequate roads to districts currently deprived;
- * Provide temporary hardened surfaces on those roads which now become muddy with every downpour of rain;
- * Improve drainage in areas susceptible to flooding.

TRANSPORT

The Party promises that it will completely restructure the Transport Board, and give this vital public corporation a modern management structure in keeping with its important functions.

In particular, facilities will be improved, and the interests and welfare of the drivers, conductors/conductresses and other staff looked after. At the same time, the Party will spare no effort to bring about an improved public transportation system.

The Party will:

- * Increase the size of the bus fleet;
- * Rationalise the existing bus routes in order to better serve the travelling public;
- * Introduce a City Circle Service connecting important points within the city;
- * Pass legislation requiring persons awaiting public transport to form queues;
- * Provide additional lay-bys and bus shelters;

- * Maintain the privately owned mini-buses as an important sector of public transport, and establish certain standards for the convenience of the travelling public;
- * Continue to look after the interests of taxi-men.

LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

The D.L.P. is of the view that every effort must be made to ensure that workers in Barbados receive adequate and suitable rewards for the efforts which they make towards or national development. Further adequate protection and job security consistent with a modern society must be provided for workers. The Party feels that there must be an ongoing and meaningful consultation with workers through their unions on matters of national importance including employment policies, productivity, wages, and the cost of living. A D.L.P. Administration will therefore, after discussion with unions and employers organisations:

- * Introduce legislation to deal with arbitrary and unfair dismissal; draw up a full statement of the rights of employees at the workplace.
- * Improve, simplify and modernise the existing severance payment legislation. More specifically the law will provide for the payment of severance pay within a specified period after a worker has been severed. Failing this, money due and owing to the worker will bear interest;
- * Require employees to give maximum practicable notice of any changes at the workplace, including closure, which may threaten the jobs of workers;
- * Introduce legislation for the recognition of trade unions where such unions have a sizeable portion of the work force at an establishment as their members. The portion will be determined after consultations with trade unions and employers organisations.
- * Review holidays with pay legislation so as to give better recognition to workers whose service at a particular establishment is in excess of five years.
- * Immediate steps will be taken to include worker representation on Statutory Boards.
- * Strengthen harmonious relations in business and industry by encouraging worker representation on the boards of private and public companies. Worker participation at other levels in the enterprises will be stimulated. Schemes for profit-sharing and for workers' shareholding will also be developed. Appropriate changes will be made to the company law and to other relevant laws.
- * Encourage employers to give leave with pay to workers to attend trade union courses and other training activities designed to enable the worker and his representative at the workplace to play a greater role in maintaining harmonious relations at the workplace.
- * Increase the contribution of Government to the Barbados Workers' Union Labour College.
- * Examine the practice of week-on week-off for hotel workers, particularly during the high season.
- * Establish a minimum wage for workers, particularly in industry and in other low paying areas of employment in Barbados.
- * Examine the whole question of hours of work in Barbados with view to:
 - (a) establishing a maximum number of hours that a person should work in one day and in a week;
 - (b) giving the worker the right to decide about working overtime.

- * Reorganise and expand the Department of Labour so that it can cope with the demands of a modern industrial society in Barbados, through the coordination and implementation of sound labour administration and enlightened labour policies;
- * Investigate the complaints of exploitation on the Farm Workers Scheme to the U.S.A. and Canada and develop a policy in collaboration with the two above Governments where Barbadian workers on this scheme can participate with dignity. Efforts will also be made to ensure quick payment to workers of their remaining earnings as soon as possible after their return to Barbados.
- * Extend and increase the benefits paid under National Insurance Scheme which was introduced by the D.L.P. in 1967. The D.L.P. will continue to work towards the development of the N.I.S. into a scheme providing full social security protection.
- * Examine the existing arrangements for maternity leave and maternity pay with a view to improving them.
- * **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND TRIPARTISM**

The Party reaffirms its commitment to the principles of collective bargaining and tripartite consultations between Government, employers and workers organisations. It recognises that both employers and workers have an important part to play in national development.

VICTIMISATION

The party is fully aware that several workers in the Public Service and in the Statutory Boards have been victimised by the Barbados Labour Party Government. The Party utterly abhors such arbitrary and unjust actions. It promises that it will not pursue a policy of victimisation. It also promises that it will set up a Victimisation Review Tribunal to examine such cases of victimisation which were inflicted on the workers during the B.L.P. regime, and to make recommendations for redress.

A HEALTHIER BARBADOS

The Democratic Labour Party commits itself to the fundamental objective of enabling all Barbadians, as a fundamental right to enjoy the highest attainable standards of health so that they may lead socially and economically productive lives.

The Party is fully aware that several countries have been burdened by sharp increases in expenditures for health and the health services. They have accordingly been searching for means by which such expenditures may be reduced in order to help restore a measure of economic stability. So-called "National Health Services" have contributed greatly to the sharp increases referred to.

Barbados will be no exception to that trend. Already considerable doubts surround the proposed National Health Plan which has not been fully explained to the people. The Party believes that the cost of the Plan will be far in excess of what has been revealed so far, and that the burden will fall squarely on the shoulders of the population through increased prices, increased national insurance benefits and increased taxation generally.

Indeed the B.L.P.'s Consultants on the Health Plan themselves give a sombre warning about this. After outlining the Financing Mechanism, they warn as follows:

"A cautionary note: The above indicated that the net impact on the employee is slight, . . . However, in actuality, in the long run employees will shoulder most of the tax burden. Employers will probably raise prices to cover part or all of their tax burden, and the Ministry's position must come from increased taxes." (Summary Report of the Consultants, Executive Summary, p. 23).

In view of the heavy costs involved, the fact that the B.L.P. has already increased hospital charges, that drugs are not readily available, the administrative superstructure that is already building up, and the fact that the Government has been far from open and frank in its reports to the nation, the Democratic Labour Party promises that it will:

reveal the true cost of the entire Health Plan, and scrap it.

The Party also pledges that upon attaining office, it will immediately carry out a comprehensive consultation with the health professions and with all interested sectors of the community with a view to developing and putting into place an affordable Comprehensive Health Coverage Programme that is widely acceptable and within the resources of our small country.

The Party promises that it will continue its initiative for fashioning a balanced health care programme for Barbados. In particular, as it addresses the main health problems in the nation, and searches for preventive and control methods, it will place due emphasis on primary health care by means of:

- * education on prevailing health problems and methods of prevention and control;
- * promotion of proper nutrition and an efficient food supply system;
- * an adequate supply of safe water and sanitation;
- * material and child health care, including family planning services;
- * immunizations against the major infectious diseases;
- * prevention and control of local disease;
- * treatment of common diseases and injuries.

The Party pledges that it will take new measures to reduce the incidence of illness and fatality resulting from diabetes melitis (“sugar”), hypertension (“high blood pressure”), heart disease and motor vehicle accidents — all of which are among the leading causes of death of Barbados.

We will continue to bring primary health care to all areas of the nation through the expansion of the multi-purpose health clinics which were initiated by us.

We will provide drugs free of cost for children, for the aged, and for those on welfare. The income tax allowances and tax credits for medical expenses will be substantially increased or provided.

The Party is aware that health systems by themselves cannot supply health to people. It recognises that the Family is the premier health unit in the society. Therefore, it will give special attention to material and child health, and will emphasize promotion, prevention, cure and rehabilitation for mothers, children and adolescents.

COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE

Training nurses and nursing assistants will be sent to the Community in a Community Nursing Service to work with Families, the chronically ill and elderly. We also promise to institute a Nurse Practitioner Service to upgrade the level of health care available. A major emphasis of this community service will be the island-wide screening of the health and welfare of our children, including the identification of child abuse in its many and varied forms, malnutrition and negative attitudes to the disabled.

DRUGS

The Party is alarmed at the apparently casual attitude being displayed towards narcotics and drug addiction among young persons in our community. We will therefore through adult education expose larger segments of the population to the dangers of drug addiction. We will also place emphasis on cutting off the sources of supply of such drugs. We will set up a special centre for the treatment of persons affected by drugs.

MENTAL HEALTH

It is clear that under the present Government all is not well in the Mental Health area. The staff at the Mental Hospital is dissatisfied with the terms and conditions of work and the facilities are far from satisfactory.

The Democratic Labour Party promises that it will completely renovate, upgrade and rebuild facilities at that Hospital. In addition an investigation will be made into the causes of dissatisfaction among the staff.

The Party will continue to develop its programme taking mental health care into the community by means of the mental health out-reach programme.

HOSPITALS

The B.L.P. has done little during its term of office for the development of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Shortages of key staff, shortages of equipment and supplies, inadequate maintenance of plant and machinery have all resulted in very low morale among the medical, nursing and other staff at the hospital. The problems of the Casualty Department have grown worse.

The Democratic Labour Party promises that it will:

- 1) improve the management services of the hospital, and introduce forward planning for the replacement of machinery and equipment;
- 2) completely restructure the Casualty Department by increasing the availability of medical staff, and by restricting its services to determine serious accidents and other conditions requiring immediate medical attention. These measures will reduce the time one has to wait for medical attention at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. At the same time a separate out-patient clinic for the treatment of non-emergency illnesses will be developed on the hospital compound;
- 3) recognise the wonderful work being done by the religious order of Nuns, the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother through the St. Joseph Hospital. Discussions will be pursued with the Order so that the hospital may be aligned with the national hospital system, and so that full hospital services will be provided for the northern part of Barbados on a twenty-four hour basis through an input of resources. The next D.L.P. Government will guarantee the continuing independent status of the hospital, and non-interruption of the services being currently provided by it, by the professionals currently practising there, and or by other interested groups;
- 4) pay the full costs for medical treatment abroad in cases where it is medically determined that adequate facilities and resources are not available in Barbados;
- 5) re-organize the District Hospital Services.

DENTAL HEALTH

Very little improvement in the state of oral health has been achieved during the period 1976-1981. It is not generally realised that dental caries (tooth decay) is the most widespread disease affecting Barbadians. Moreover, the rate at which dental caries is being formed is faster than the rate at which it is being corrected!

There is only one (1) dentist for every 10,000 persons in the population!

All of this adds up to a situation calling for immediate action. More dentists are required, and more auxiliary personnel are also needed since the dentists cannot do the job by themselves.

The Democratic Labour Party promises to:

- * increase substantially the number of scholarships available for the study of dentistry;

- * increase substantially the number of training awards for dental hygienists, dental auxiliaries, and dental assistants;
- * increase through health education the spread of knowledge about oral hygiene, and hence help in the prevention of oral disease;
- * restructure the dental health services by strengthening the administration of those services.

SCHOOL HEALTH

The D.L.P. believes, the pride of our nation is our school children. We pledge to continue our intense interest in the school children. We will:

- 1) establish a comprehensive school health service involving
 - a) a complete physical examination for each child at least twice during school life;
 - b) screening for defects in speech, sight and hearing, as well as for physical and mental defects;
 - c) immunizations;
 - d) advice on environment conditions;
 - e) health education;
- 2) integrate existing medical, dental and ophthalmic services for school children into the programme;
- 3) maintain a child guidance clinic to deal with the maladjustments and other developmental problems of children.

THE HANDICAPPED

The work of the D.L.P. on behalf of the handicapped is well known. In our interest to develop a special assistance programme for the handicapped we sought the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme and the International Labour Organisation. An I.L.O. expert was assigned to Barbados, and the first ever survey of handicapped persons was carried out under the D.L.P. Government.

A start was also made to put the handicapped into jobs.

The Party promises to implement the other aspects of the programme for the handicapped which have been allowed to languish, namely;

- * the establishment of Industrial Training Workshops
- * the provision of a Combined Handicraft Training and Production Workshop;
- * the introduction of special employment and welfare services for the disabled persons.

The Party also promises to grant special disablement allowances to the handicapped to assist in meeting the cost of service by those who look after them and are therefore themselves unable to go out to work. The disablement allowances will also assist in meeting other expenses caused by disability.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Democratic Labour Party has been in the vanguard of the national effort to protect the health of all Barbadians through a comprehensive environmental health programme embracing the following measures:

- a) a modernised refuse collection and disposal system, including provision of a pulverization plant, new vehicles and nationalized work schedules. We regret that recently Barbados has been labelled a dirty little country. The Party promises to correct this ugly image and to make our country the cleanest city of the Caribbean;

- b) the plans for the installation of a modern sewerage system. It is a source of regret that the implementation of this project is being mismanaged by the B.L.P. Government, leading to unnecessary public inconvenience, traffic snarls, very high levels of dust pollution, and shocking road reinstatement conditions. The Party looks forward to the speedy conclusion of this project which it initiated;
- c) a modern water development programme. The Party promises to draw up a programme to bring piped water into the homes of every Barbadian within the next five years or soon thereafter. We will also continue to monitor very closely our ground water supply to ensure that it remains free from contaminants;
- d) systematic occupational health programme stressing factory inspections. The Party is aware that accidents and disease caused by conditions at the workplace bear heavily on workers. The Party therefore promises to review the occupational health programmes in order to reduce the number of work injuries and occupational diseases, as well as resultant suffering and economic loss. The Party also promises to monitor closely the type of industry seeking to establish in Barbados, in order to exclude those which may be harmful to health of the workers and destructive of the environment.

CARING FOR THE DISADVANTAGED

The Democratic Labour Party remains committed to the philosophy of putting disadvantaged individuals and groups, those with no fixed incomes and on very low incomes, into contact with the resources necessary for meeting their problems. The Party believes, without apology, that our nation must make provision for the disadvantaged to assist them in meeting fundamental needs, including: food, clothing, shelter, household furniture and utensils, water, electricity, cooking fuel, sanitation, public transportation and social services.

The Party will implement the following strategies in meeting the fundamental needs of the disadvantaged:

SENIOR CITIZENS

- 1) Increase the level of old age pension from \$28.00 per week to \$35.00 per week immediately upon assuming office. The National Insurance Pension will also be increased.
- 2) Abolish the Means Test through progressive measures.
- 3) Provide special Old Age Assistance payments schemes for meeting the high rents, water rates, electricity and food expenses of our senior citizens. This proposal was under active consideration by the Democratic Labour Party Government in 1976.
- 4) Expand the Home Help or Housekeeper Service for the aged and the incapacitated. This proposal was under active consideration by the Democratic Labour Party Government in 1976.
- 5) Continue the Programme, begun by the Democratic Labour Party, of repair of old people's houses, or of replacing those which are beyond repair.
- 6) Integrate a fixed number of units for Senior Citizens in new housing developments.
- 7) Increase support for the Meals-on-Wheels and similar services which provide food for the needy.
- 8) Provide health care for the needy, the handicapped, and Senior Citizens through the Community Nursing Service which the Party will implement.
- 9) Continue the development of the St. Michael District Hospital into an institution specialising in the medical care of the aged.
- 10) Progressively increase the grants paid under the National Assistance programme.
- 11) Restore the pension cards to those persons from whom they were taken by the Barbados Labour Party Government.

- 12) Permit Senior Citizens, once again, to travel on the buses at any time convenient to them.
- 13) Develop clubs within each community with programmes of activities, including: discussions, debates, lectures, card games, excursions, slide projections, singing and dancing, in order to reduce the feelings of loneliness and isolation. The youth of the community will be encouraged to assist actively in the implementation of these programmes.

CHILDREN

The Party will:

- 1) Continue our policy of providing additional Day Nurseries to assist working mothers with the care of the pre-school children. These Day Nurseries will be established in areas near where people live rather than where they work, in order to prevent the very young children from being jostled in peak-hour traffic. Consideration will also be given to extending the hours of opening for the custody of unattended children whose parents have cause to be away from home. This will be part of an effort to reduce the number of house fires.
- 2) Continue our policy of developing more accommodation for deprived children on a "family unit" basis rather than on an institutional basis: each such unit to be run by "parents." The Party wishes to point out that the concept of a children's village at the Nightengale Home compound involving among other things the construction of cottages had been developed by it, and that money for the initiation of the project had been included in the 1976-1977 estimates.
- 3) Take active steps towards the establishment of a fun-park for children.
- 4) Raise the age of criminal responsibility.
- 5) Establish a number of Children's Homes for Difficult Children. These will be "family unit" type homes similar to those for the normal children's homes being developed. The Barbados Labour Party Government must severely be blamed for allowing conditions at the Government Industrial Schools (Dodds) to deteriorate so rapidly during the period 1976-1981 as to become a national scandal.
- 6) Remove all persons under seventeen (17) years of age from prison and create special youth facilities for their accommodation.

IMPROVING EDUCATION

The contribution of the Democratic Labour Party to the improvement and transformation of education in Barbados cannot be matched by any other political party past or present.

Under the conservatives, as well as under the first B.L.P. government (1951-1961), access to secondary and tertiary education was restricted to a tiny minority of the school population. Under the first D.L.P. government (1961-1976) there was a complete turn around of that situation, and educational opportunities and access to secondary education were made available to all.

Primary education was upgraded. School meals were provided, resulting in a tremendous improvement in nutritional status of our children.

The D.L.P. inherited a system of discrimination against female teachers who were being paid less than their male counterparts for doing the same job! We put an end to that.

We abolished school fees. We initiated a most welcome programme of assistance to the private secondary schools. We provided textbooks to students through the textbook loan scheme. We embarked on a massive school building programme in order to provide more places for our children, to renew buildings, and to return certain properties to their owners, the churches.

We made major efforts towards equalizing the educational provision in the newer secondary school when compared with the older ones. For example, we:

- * placed the salaries of the heads of the newer secondary schools on the same level as that of the heads of the older fifth-forms secondary schools;
- * set up a National Curriculum Development Council to overhaul curriculum in these and other schools.

Above all we passed through parliament the 1975 Education Act, a milestone in education thought, administration and drafting in Barbados. That Act has just been repealed by the B.L.P. government more out of envy than anything else. For the Education Act 1981 faithfully follows the 1975 Act in virtually 90 percent of its provisions.

The B.L.P. promised:

- * free uniforms for school children. But less than one percent of the school population has benefitted, and the money provided cannot even completely outfit any pupil with the full regulation school uniforms;
- * the abolition of the Common Entrance Examination. But this remains a broken promise, since absolutely nothing has been done to change the nature or character of that examination!
- * the decentralization of technical education, but is constructing a single large centralized polytechnic at Wildey!

There is clearly then the need for renewed thrust in education. Our party is well placed to provide that impetus. We therefore pledge that we will:

- 1) launch a major programme of nursery education for children between the age of three and five years. Primary schools will be encouraged to develop nursery departments. Day nurseries will also be involved. The blue print for this programme is already available to the party.
- 2) institute programmes for the regeneration of primary school education with major emphasis on quality improvement. More efficient use will be made of teachers by permitting them to specialize in the teaching of Mathematics, English, Science, Social Studies and other subjects to more than one class in the 7 to 11 age group.
- 3) change radically the emphasis in secondary education by making it less literary and more oriented to the world of work and productivity. In particular the secondary school technical education programme will be completely restructured to gear the country more effectively for industrial and agricultural development.
- 4) reform the process of admission to secondary school by the following:
 - a) discontinuing the Common Entrance Examination and substituting the National Achievement Test based on syllabuses and curricula prepared by the National Curriculum Development Council for the eleven year old pupils in the subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies;
 - b) admitting all students who attain the pass mark to a public secondary school, or awarding a full tuition grant to an assisted private school;
- 3) providing those students who do not attain the pass mark with remedial education so that they may make good their deficiencies and then be admitted to the secondary sector from age 12 upwards.

The party does not intend to introduce a system of zoning. It does not believe that it should dictate to parents/guardian which secondary school it should send the child to, since it does not do that in respect of primary schools. It believes that with a positive secondary schools equalization programme parents will choose the school which is in the interest of the child, taking into account all factors including the factors of distance and transportation.

The Democratic Labour Party does believe in providing:

- * the private secondary schools with full reimbursement for the salaries of qualified teachers
- * paying the full fees for students at these schools who have passed the National Achievement Test
- * the establishment of an effective school health programme.

SPORT, RECREATION AND THE ARTS

The Party will continue to give support and recreation as national activities of prime importance. It will evolve a balanced and co-ordinated sports and recreation policy which will take into account the needs of school children, young persons, adults and senior citizens.

Specifically, we will:

- i) ensure that each school pupil, except those medically exempt, participate in some form of individual, dual, or team sport on a regular basis. The necessary human and other resources will be provided;
- ii) set up a comprehensive programme for the training and supply of competent and highly motivated coaches and physical education instructors;
- iii) assign coaches or other sports personnel to various areas throughout the nation to (a) develop a sports and recreation programme for those areas; (b) stimulate the formation of clubs, and (c) arrange competitions and matches with other areas;
- iv) establish a central sports secretariat to provide administrative and secretarial assistance to sports organisations and to assist in the mobilisation of people for sport and recreation;
- v) continue our programme of playground development;
- vi) provide assistance for sports organisations;
- vii) remove or reduce the duty on sports goods and equipment;
- viii) provide an Olympic-sized swimming pool for the further development of competitive swimming;
- ix) construct a national gymnasium for indoor sporting activities;
- x) provide more centers, to be used for visual and performing arts, and for other activities such as lectures and debates;
- xi) recognise the efforts being made for the improvement of music, and provide full assistance for the development of a national orchestra;
- xii) provide areas of artistic expression and employment for artists by ensuring that sums of money are spent on the artistic beautification of buildings;
- xiii) encourage the purchase of works of art by granting a tax rebate for the purchase of local works of art;
- xiv) help artists to develop their skills through training programmes and through attendance at meetings;
- xv) develop the Museum into a truly national institution;
- xvi) continue the programme of providing more and better access to our beaches, and ensuring that our Parks and Beaches are kept in an attractive condition at all times.
- xvii) provide picnic facilities in additional areas. These will be particularly attractive to parents, since mechanical devices will be included among the many forms of entertainment.

WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

The women of Barbados recognise which political party has done most to improve their status in this country. They know that it was the Democratic Labour Party which during the period 1961-1976:

brought about equal pay for women in the teaching services and in other areas of government activity;

- * reduced the infant mortality rate by improving ante-natal, maternity and child health services;
- * introduced maternity and sickness benefits under the National Insurance Scheme planned and inaugurated by the Democratic Labour Party;
- * created employment other than domestic and agricultural work in congenial industrial estates;
- * passed the Succession Act enabling partners and children of Common Law relationships to inherit property;
- * established the Women's Bureau as the first agency in Barbados designed to give specific attention to women's affairs.

The Democratic Labour Party appointed the Commission on the Status of Women whose recommendations have now been published.

We take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge our debt to the government of Canada for the assistance made available in the person of the internationally eminent lady who directed the production of the report.

The Party promises to:

- * implement the proposals of the commission to its fullest extent and not in a piecemeal manner as is now being done;
- * ensure the full and equal participation of women in the economic, social, cultural and political life of this country;
- * continue to support women's organisations and to encourage our womenfolk to participate in regional and international activities.

YOUTH

The Democratic Labour Party can truly be said to be the party for all young people, for those who are young at heart, and for all those who have hope in our future. For it was the D.L.P. which involved youth in the national agenda. For example, the D.L.P.:

- a) lowered the voting age to 18 and so enabled young people to help determine the nation's destiny;
- b) completely transformed the educational system, thereby enabling young people to develop their potential, talents and skills;
- c) organised a diverse skills training programme through the Polytechnic and the technology and other divisions of the Barbados Community College, thereby equipping the youth with the tools for facing the world;
- d) developed industrial estates and a vibrant tourist industry, thereby providing work for the youth;
- e) established a Youth Affairs Division within government to give on-going attention to the problems and challenges of youth.

The first B.L.P. government (1951-1961) abandoned the youth to fend for themselves. This second B.L.P. government (1976-1981) has treated the youth with benign neglect. The B.L.P. promised the young people jobs, but instead have callously broken faith with them by allowing an unemployment rate among young people to be more than 70 percent above other categories. The consultations which were a regular feature of D.L.P. administration have long been discarded. The Party promises to conduct youth back to the centre of development in the society. In particular, we will:

- i) re-establish a broadly based Advisory National Council on Youth to study on a continuing basis—
 - a) the place and role of youth in the society;
 - b) restraints that hinder youth from attaining their objective; and
 - c) recommendations on any matter which will enable young people to fulfill their aspirations and play a more meaningful role in the society;
- ii) guarantee to each young person either a job upon leaving school, or a full or part-time continuing education and training. A non-military national youth service scheme will be established. The energies of youth will therefore all be absorbed in constructive activity. The D.L.P. will encourage service by youth as a means of character building, and attitude formation.
- iii) give support to the Barbados Youth Council and its other youth clubs and organisations;
- iv) provide leadership training courses for youth leaders who will be assigned to work in various communities. In particular such leaders will be attached to schools with the specific responsibilities for after school activities among present and former school pupils and others in the catchment area.
- v) ensure that the voice of youth is heard in the development of national politics and in the implementation of youth programmes.
- vi) re-organize and encourage the valuable contribution of institutions and organisations such as the churches, the police, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the uniformed organisations, business houses, the service clubs and other bodies like the Jaycees, to youth development in Barbados.
- vii) establish camp sites for higher appreciation of the outdoor life.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The D.L.P. promises to work to develop a vibrant and renewed community spirit based on the tried and tested values of cooperation, self-help and respect for the individual. In contrast to the existing attitude of benign neglect a positive community development strategy is now imperative.

The D.L.P. will therefore:

- * encourage community workers in their sense of mission and urgency national development
- * establish and finance development councils which will be able to identify problems within their area and the resources required to deal with them
- * assist in planning programmes of activities for persons of all ages
- * continue to provide grants and other forms of assistance to community groups including those affiliated with and sponsored by religious bodies
- * Serious consideration will have to be given to strict control of gambling, and the indiscriminate dispersal of gambling machines in the rural areas which has impoverished workers, corrupted the body politic and diverted the national resources into unproductive areas.

CRIME IN BARBADOS

Official statistics show that there has been an alarming increase in crime in Barbados in recent years. During the period January 1977 to December 1980, the country recorded:

54 cases of murder
188 cases of rape
49 cases of unlawful carnal knowledge
377 cases of robbery
190 cases of burglary
2,540 cases of housebreaking

and no less than 22,482 other criminal offenses against the person, against property and the public peace.

Compared with the situation in 1976 these figures disclose that the incidence of rape has increased by 28%, housebreaking by 122% and robbery by 455%.

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These are the stark realities of the crime in Barbados today. When we realise that not all criminal acts perpetrated are reported by the victims to the police authorities, the gravity of the situation begins to reveal itself in true perspective.

This upward swing in crime and violence must be stopped. Barbados must once again become a place where residents and visitors alike may walk, work and sleep without fear of loss of life, limb or property.

The Democratic Labour Party which has always had faith in the competence of the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force desires to see public confidence restored in their ability to function professionally and efficiently.

The D.L.P. proposes to provide incentives and facilities to upgrade and maintain the quality and efficiency fo the Police Force.

Moreover the D.L.P. will put an end to political interference in police affairs and will re-establish once and for all that the Police Force is the protector of the general public and not the personal institution of any government in power.

IMPROVING GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

The Democratic Labour Party recognises the importance of the Public Service as an instrument in maintaining efficiency in Government and in implementing the policy objectives to which a Government may be committed.

The Party is committed to maintaining the integrity of the Public Service and encouraging a high degree of professionalism. It deplores the victimisation of public employees who are suspected of not being supporters of the Party forming the Government of the day. It expects that all public employees will perform their duties with efficiency and in the national interest, and assist in implementing the policies of the Government of the day, whatever may be their political affiliation or bias.

The Democratic Labour Party, therefore, seeks to ensure that conditions of service of public employees are such as would ensure a contented, efficient and highly professional public service, with conditions of employment a model to all employers and in conformity with the objectives of the Democratic Labour Party of fair and just treatment to workers, equality of opportunity, equality in the treatment of the sexes and adequate provision for the welfare of surviving dependents. The Party is particularly concerned over the plight of widows and infant children of Government pensioners on the death of the pensioner, especially in the light of the present high cost of living.

The Democratic Labour Party therefore proposes:

- 1) That the provision in the law that no public officer has an absolute right to a pension should be repealed, and pensions to retiring officers who qualify for pensions should be granted as of right.

- 2) That on the death of a Government pensioner, his or her pension should devolve on his or her surviving spouse and infant children in the same way that the pension of the Prime Minister devolves on his surviving spouse and infant children on his death.
- 3) That pensions should be calculated in respect of the service of officers who die in service and paid to the surviving spouse and infant children of the deceased on the same basis as that proposed for payment of pensions to the surviving spouse and infant children of deceased pensioners.
- 4) That an officer dismissed from Public Service should not be further penalised by loss of the entire pension for which he may have qualified at the time of his dismissal, but should be liable to have such pension reduced.
- 5) That pension should not cease if a person is jailed with hard labour for more than a year as at present provided in the law, but that such pension should be reduced by an amount equivalent to the cost of maintaining the pensioner while he is in prison and the remainder applied towards the maintenance of the spouse and/or infant children of the pensioner.
- 6) That where the pension of a person ceases on his bankruptcy, such pension should be restored in full with retrospective effect on his discharge from bankruptcy and not merely from the date of his discharge from bankruptcy as at present provided by law.
- 7) To remove the provision whereby the Governor-General may direct that the pension of a public officer should cease if he becomes a director or employee of a company whose business in any way directly concerned with the island without prior permission of the Governor-General.
- 8) To further equality of treatment of the sexes in the Public Service by—
 - a) extending the eligibility to leave passage to the husband of a female officer in the same way that such eligibility is extended to the wife of a male officer;
 - b) removal of the requirement that newly married female officers should seek permission to remain in the Public Service after marriage.
- 9) To ensure that all vacant positions in the Public Service are filled as soon as possible, and that persons are not kept acting in vacant posts for unreasonably long periods of time.
- 10) To expand the training facilities for all grades in the Public Service and establish a staff Training College for the purpose.
- 11) To consult with the accredited representatives of the workers on all matters affecting their conditions of service.

CIVIL SERVICE REVIEW

No major view has been conducted in recent times into the structure and operations of the Public Service. The Party promises to carry out such a review in order to discover areas whereby the efficiency of the services may be improved.

PARLIAMENT

The Party observes that within recent times there has been a massive growth in the power of the Executive when compared with the power of Parliament. The Party believes that this trend spells danger for our democracy, and therefore considers that the time is ripe for Parliament, as the assembly of the people's representatives, to be strengthened and given the necessary resources to carry out its functions effectively.

We will:

- ** modernise the Standing Orders relating to Parliament;
- ** reduce the quorum of the Public Accounts Committee

- ** repeal legislation which enables Members of Parliament to serve as Chairmen of Statutory Corporations. This innovation by the Barbados Labour Party Government has been a decided failure;
- ** establish a number of Select Committees to scrutinise Government legislation and activities in defined areas of governmental activity;
- ** provide Members of Parliament with improved library facilities, research and other resources to enable them to carry out their functions as legislators and representatives more efficiently;
- ** Re-examine and reform where necessary the role and composition of the Senate to allow its members a more vital role in National Debate.
- ** make provision for joint meetings of the House of Assembly and the Senate at which distinguished leaders of foreign governments may be permitted to address Parliament.

THE QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

The Democratic Labour Party is firmly of the view since experiencing the reckless abuse of its well intending provisions, that the Parliamentary Immunities Privileges Act should be substantially amended, as was proposed on 1975, if not repealed.

The powers of the Speaker should be clearly defined and limited to those necessary for the holder of that office to preside over the business of The House of Assembly. Members should have no greater privilege or immunity than that enjoyed by the ordinary citizens in relation to the law of libel and slander since the D.L.P. does not consider it necessary to defame others in order to conduct the people's business.

THE MEDIA

One of the first tasks of the Democratic Labour Party Government will be to improve the image of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.

C.B.C. has had four chairmen and three general managers since 1976, and there as been a rapid turnover of staff in all departments due to resignations and dismissals directly attributable to political interference. Under the Barbados Labour Party the freedom of the press has been eroded, its independence undermined and its integrity threatened.

Persons high in government have been abusive to journalists who displease them and have extended their displeasure to threats of physical violence.

In Parliament the press has been inhibited in the performance of its duty and one reporter has been banned for life by an edict of the speaker of that place.

The Party reaffirms its belief in:

- a) freedom of expression for all on terms of equality without special privilege for Parliament or restrictions imposed on the media. All subject only to the common and statute law constraints of defamation and the protection of civil liberties.
- b) The need to provide training opportunities for journalists.
- c) The principal of equal time in Parliamentary and political broadcasting.

OUR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL SECURITY

We recall that the Democratic Labour Party provided the skillfull leadership which led to the Independence of Barbados on November 30, 1966. We recall too that this national independence was won in the teeth of bitter opposition from the Barbados Labour Party.

Today this Nation is again crying out for leadership. Through misconception, misjudgement and mismanagement, our foreign affairs and national security are again in jeopardy. We have become unnecessarily embroiled in quarrels with our Latin American neighbours; for example with Guatemala over arms, with Argentina and Brazil over human rights, with Venezuela over the Cubana airplane disaster, and with Brazil over the Ronald Biggs affair. There is clearly no overall policy in relation to Latin America.

Within our own region, the policies of the B.L.P. are in a shambles. That party has failed to move the regional integration movement forward, failed to re-negotiate the CARICOM Treaty as promised, even failed to secure a meeting of the CARICOM Heads of Government.

The B.L.P. Government has created mistrust between the people of Barbados and the friendly people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines through the illegal dispatch and intervention of troops of the Barbados Defence Force into the affairs of that independent country. Secret agreements with other countries have been concluded without any form of parliamentary sanction; and the national interests of Barbados have been made subserviant to those of other countries. For the first time in our history, Barbados has virtually severed diplomatic relations with a CARICOM partner, Grenada, as a result of ill-timed and ill-advised statements and expressions.

Meanwhile beyond our region, Barbados appears more and more to be client state or surrogate of the United States and Britain.

In these circumstances, it becomes necessary for the Democratic Labour Party to state clearly that it will pursue an active foreign policy based on the following fundamental principles:

- a) recognition of the right to equality of all states in the international community, and in particular the rights of small states to conduct their relations without being bullied or harassed by richer and more powerful states;
- b) preservation and protection of national independence, national sovereignty and national security;
- c) pursuit, protection and development of national resources and national economic interests;
- d) resistance to the penetration of our culture and way of life by alien ideologies which do not respect fundamental rights, moral values, the rule of law, and a greater measure of equality in social and economic life;
- e) collaboration with countries in the region and beyond in working for peace and justice, and for a new social, political and economic order.

Specifically we will:

- i) repudiate all forms of racism, apartheid, colonialism, hegemonism, tutelage and imperialism;
- ii) take initiatives for strengthening the regional integration movement, since we share a common heritage and culture with our Commonwealth Caribbean neighbours, and since the CARICOM Market is very important to us. To this end, in consultation with our partners, we will make every effort to—
 - a) convene an early meeting of Commonwealth Caribbean Heads of Government for the purpose of considering current Caribbean Community problems and likely solutions, and for injecting fresh impetus and new indications into the movement;
 - b) create new mechanisms and institutions for making the movement more responsive to the wishes of the broad masses of Caribbean peoples;

- c) establish a Community Tribunal to oversee the observance of law and justice in the interpretation of the CARICOM treaty provisions;
 - d) implement those recommendations of the Expert Committee on CARICOM in respect of which there is consensus.
- iii) Within the context of the regional integration movement, strengthen bilateral and other relations with Caribbean Countries. In particular, we will bring about a reconciliation with Grenada; the absence of free elections has not prevented the B.L.P. Government from rushing to establish relations with Mainland China and several Eastern European Communist regimes.
 - iv) continue co-operation with our neighbours in Central and South America through bi-lateral contacts and through our membership of regional and hemispheric institutions, such as, the Organisation of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank.
 - v) protect the welfare and well-being of Barbadian nationals abroad by maintaining contacts with them personally as well as through their organisations, by keeping them informed of developments at home, by indicating avenues whereby they can share in the development of their homeland, by allowing them access to Barbadian financial and other institutions on no less favorable terms than those applying to resident Barbadians, and by restoring to them once again their rightful role as participants in the continuing evolution of our island home;
 - vi) further cement our relations with our main trading partners, Canada and the United States on the basis of both bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation. The Party will press for mutual assistance programmes which will foster real development, stimulate production, relieve unemployment, and remove trade barriers which block access for our manufactured products;
 - vii) maintain close relations with Britain and the European Community which is the world's largest trading block. Efforts will be made to deepen our relations with countries such as those of Scandanavia on the basis of identifying industries for joint ventures and seeking investors for specific projects;
 - viii) strengthen political, cultural and economic ties with African and Asian countries;
 - ix) continue participation in the group of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries which we helped to establish in recognition of the need for maximum collaboration among Third World Countries, vis-a-vis the developed countries and north-south relations;
 - x) continue to work for and support a reformed and strengthened United Nations System as the best medium or consultation and negotiation in an inter-dependent world on the global aspects of such matters as: the food crisis, energy strategies, law of the sea matters, reform of the international economic system, arms control, the transfer of resources, the conciliation of conflict, pollution and the problems of small middle-income countries—like Barbados.
 - xi) seek agreement with other territories in order to counteract the dangers of the drug traffic problem;
 - xii) restructure the role of our diplomatic missions abroad, making them more oriented towards our commercial, trade, export and tourism development interests, and particularly the protection of the interests of our nationals abroad.

DEFENCE

It is obvious that the B.L.P. Government has no clear, consistent nor acceptable policy on the purpose and role of a Defence Force for Barbados.

The Party is on record while in opposition as saying: "There will be no need to maintain any standing army or other defence force." (BLP Manifesto 1976); "a coastguard at this time is not a priority" (Lionel Craig, M.P. (BLP), March 1976); ". . . the opposition is still opposed in principle to a Coast Guard service which is separate from the ordinary policing duties . . ." (J.M.G. Adams, M.P. (BLP), March 1976).

It is therefore not surprising that the B.L.P. Government recklessly dispatched units of the Defence Force to intervene in the internal affairs of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, thereby imperiling the lives of the Barbadian soldiers and the security of Barbados itself.

It is not surprising too that since coming to power, the B.L.P. Government has shown an excessive interest in purchasing airplanes, armoured vehicles, other heavy duty transport vehicles, warships and heavy duty guns and ammunition. Military expenditures since 1976 have reached the extravagant total of \$34,798,433! This in a country crying out for more food, tractors, buses, better roads and improved care for the poor and aged.

The D.L.P. denounces such wasteful extravagance! It further denounces the Government for entering into military pacts, alliances and arrangements by means of secret diplomacy and without any sanction from the peoples' representatives in Parliament.

The Party also strongly objects to the way in which units of the Defence Force have intruded themselves into areas of civil activities which are or should be normally the province of the Royal Barbados Police Force, thereby increasing fears and tensions in the society and between the two Forces.

The Democratic Labour Party makes its stand clear. The present reality in the world is one of an increase in sabotage, adventurism, terrorism and guerrilla activities. There is also no shortage of individuals and para-military groups ready to incite insurrection and promote political instability. In such circumstances the Party pledges to support and maintain a small, effective, highly trained and disciplined Defence Force with the objectives of—

- a) repelling external aggression and threats to our sovereignty and independence;
- b) Protecting the democratic institutions of the state from any attempts to overthrow the legally constituted government by force of arms;
- c) coming to the aid of the civil power in cases of severe break-down of law and order; and
- d) providing a body of disciplined persons in case of need arising out of national disasters.

At the same time, the Party is conscious that the power of the armies may be misused, especially in small societies. There is therefore a crying need to indentify the role of the Defence Force within the context of Barbados.

The Party therefore promises to do the following:

- i) set up a Military Review Committee to review, study and make recommendations on the type of Defence Force that is suitable for Barbados, to indentify the tasks and mission of such a Force and the resources and organisation needed for the efficient accomplishment of the objectives;
- ii) diffuse the tensions and jealousies created by the B.L.P. between the Defence Force and the Royal Barbados Police Force;
- iii) establish Cadet Corps on a geographical basis with the curriculum and instructors being provided through the Defence Force;
- iv) ensure through a system of adequate military education that all members of the Defence Force are made aware of the proper role and function of the Force, and the fundamental principle that the Force is subordinate to the civil power;
- v) revitalize the coast guard service with emphasis on the saving of lives at sea, assistance to vessels and aircraft in distress, protection of the territorial waters, and enforcement of our navigation, marine and other laws, including laws relating to smuggling and drug trafficking;
- vi) remove the youth skills training programme from the Defence Force where it was hurriedly instituted for propaganda purposes, and return that programme to the civil authority where it properly belongs.

GET BARBADOS BACK

TOGETHER

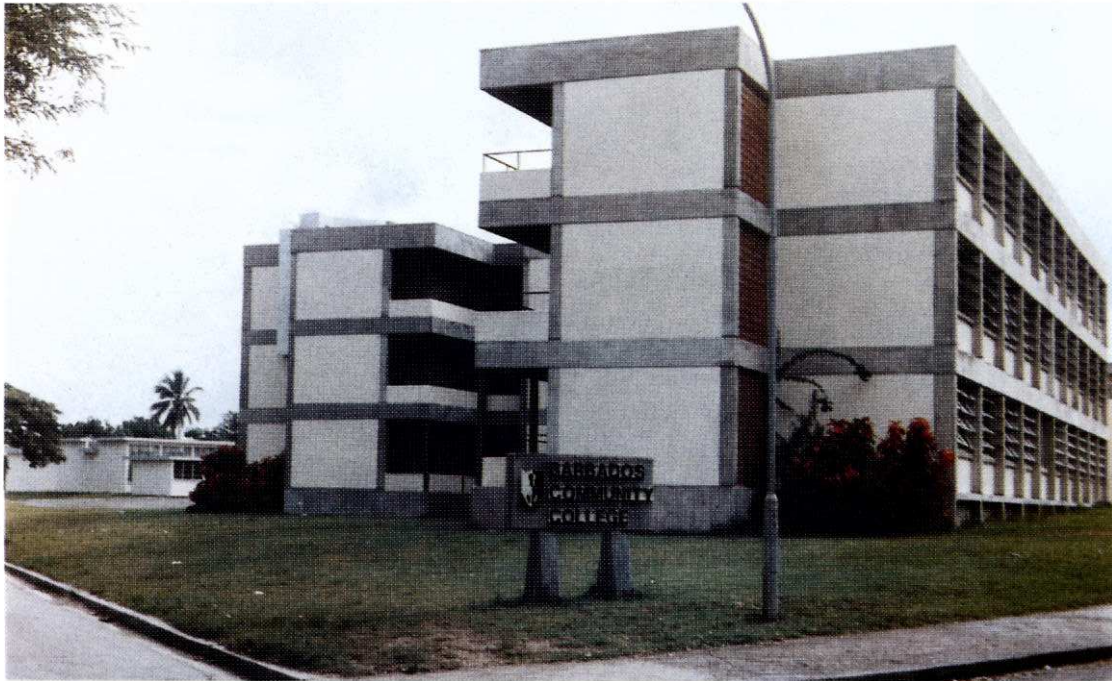
WITH THE DEMS

VOTE D.L.P.

ERSKINE SANDIFORD



(ST. MICHAEL SOUTH)



**COMMUNITY COLLEGE
(ANOTHER D.L.P. PROJECT)**

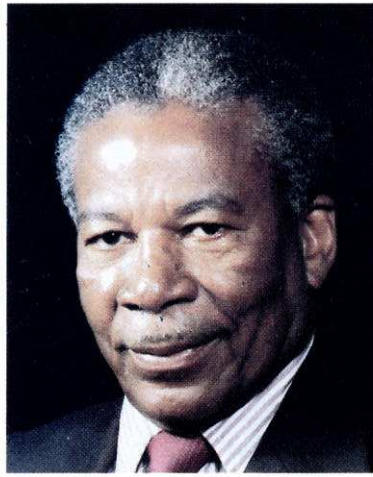


**MILTON PIERCE
(ST. MICHAEL SOUTH EAST)**



**CHARLIE BEST
(CHRIST CHURCH EAST)**

NEVILLE BOXILL



(ST. THOMAS)



HARRISON'S CAVE
(ANOTHER D.L.P. PROJECT)



DUDLEY SMITH
(ST. JOSEPH)



VERNON SMITH
(ST. ANDREW)

PHILIP GREAVES



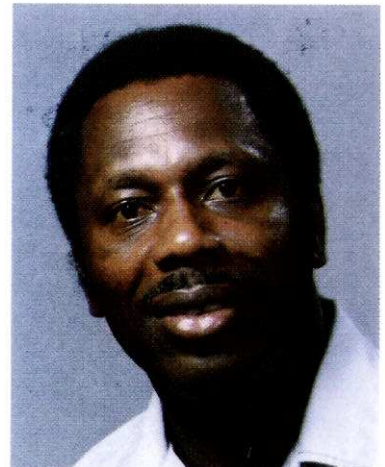
(ST. MICHAEL NORTH)



**ST. JAMES SECONDARY SCHOOL
(ANOTHER D.L.P. PROJECT)**



**LEROY BRATHWAITE
(ST. MICHAEL NORTH EAST)**



**KEITH SIMMONS
(ST. JAMES SOUTH)**

DR. RICHIE HAYNES



(ST. MICHAEL SOUTH CENTRAL)



**NEW POST OFFICE
(ANOTHER D.L.P. PROJECT)**



**LEROY TROTMAN
(ST. MICHAEL CENTRAL)**



**LYLE CARMICHAEL
(CITY)**

EVELYN GREAVES



(ST. LUCY)



HEYWOODS HOLIDAY VILLAGE
(ANOTHER D.L.P. PROJECT)

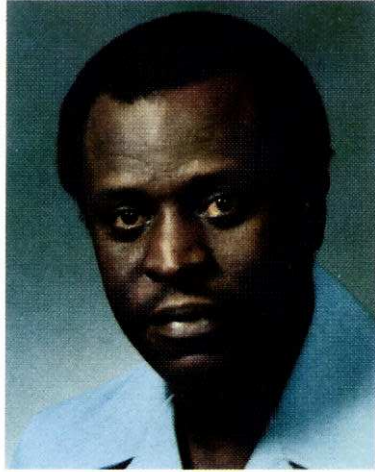


JOSEPH PAYNE
(ST. JAMES NORTH)



SYBIL LEACOCK
(ST. PETER)

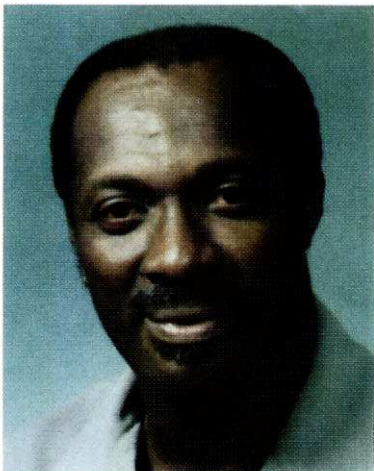
BRANFORD TAITT



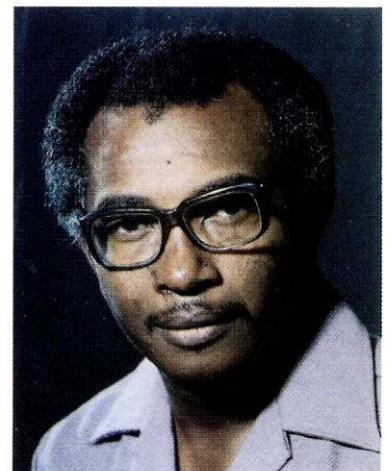
(ST. MICHAEL WEST)



FLOUR MILL
(ANOTHER D.L.P. PROJECT)



WES HALL
(ST. MICHAEL WEST CENTRAL)



LAWSON WEEKES
(ST. MICHAEL NORTH WEST)

DR. BOBBY THOMAS



(CHRIST CHURCH EAST CENTRAL)



**OISTINS DEVELOPMENT
(ANOTHER D.L.P. PROJECT)**



**JOHN DANIEL
(CHRIST CHURCH WEST)**

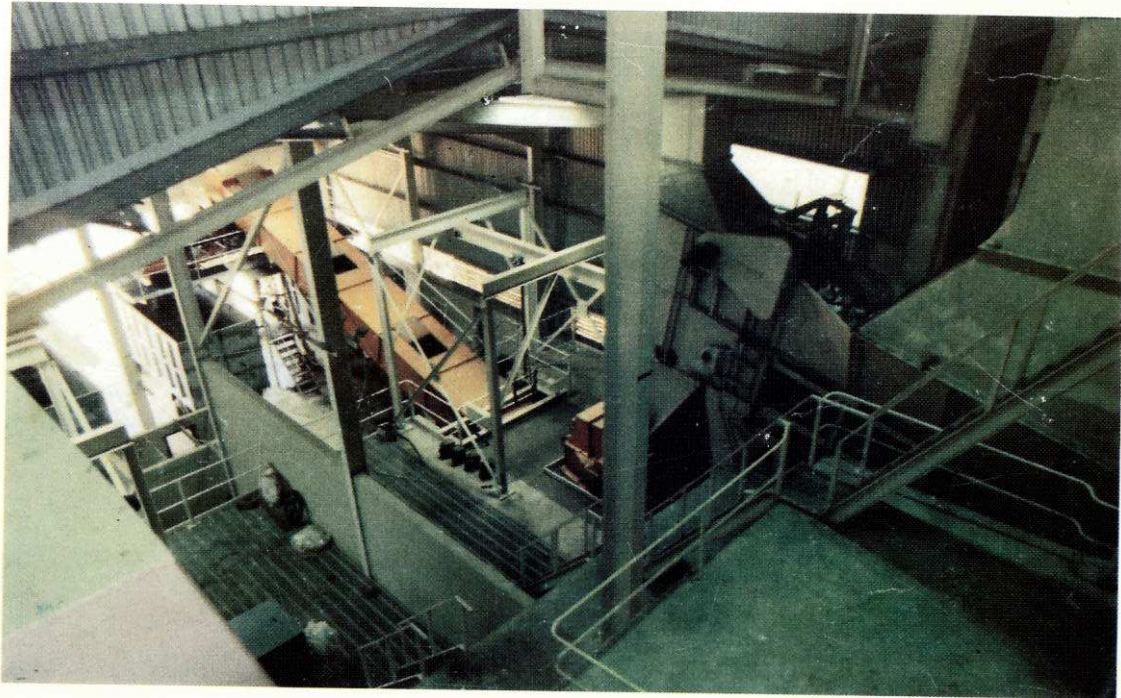


**MAURICE KING
(CHRIST CHURCH WEST CENTRAL)**

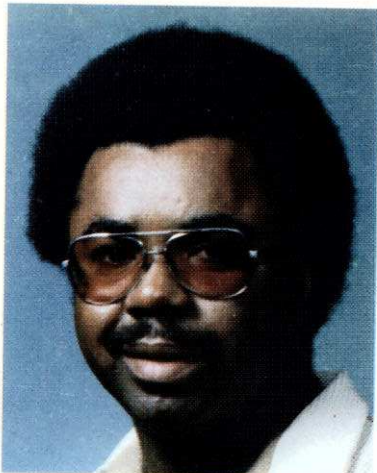
DR. RAMESES CADDLE



(ST. MICHAEL EAST)



**PULVERISATION PLANT
(ANOTHER D.L.P. PROJECT)**



**HORACE HOLDER
(ST. GEORGE SOUTH)**



**EYRE HOPPIN
(ST. GEORGE NORTH)**