

# Mr. Alder Accuses Government Of Deluding Masses With Promises

Mr. O. T. Alder (1) one of the five members of the House of Assembly who have spoken on the Government's proposed Five Year Development Plan of Capital Expenditure and Taxation, accused Government when the House continued consideration of the plan on Wednesday, of deluding the electorate with grandiose promises, burdening the masses with taxation, and omitting many schemes which would have benefited the people.

He said that there had been promises of disestablishing the church, and the revenue which would have been acquired from the disestablishment would have helped the small man, but Government was not mindful of helping the small man.

The Plan was introduced on Tuesday by the Leader of the House, Mr. G. H. Adams. Members besides Mr. Alder who took part in the debate were Messrs. A. E. S. Lewis, J. E. T. Branker, V. B. Vaughn and W. A. Crawford.

## OUT-OF-BOUNDS U.N. GUARDS RELEASED BY REDS



FREE AGAIN AFTER BEING IMPRISONED by Chinese Communists, three U.N. Security guards sit in the jeep that got them into trouble. While investigating an alleged shelling in the neutral zone near Panmunjom recently, the trio accidentally moved outside the boundary line. They were immediately taken prisoner by the Reds. Shown (l. to r.) are: Cpl. Andrew Herrera, of San Antonio, Tex.; Pfc. Everett L. Samuels, of Corbin, Ky.; and Pfc. Joseph Cullen, of Cleveland. (Defense Department Radiophoto from International)

The House will resume consideration of the Plan next Tuesday, Mr. O. T. Alder said that he would like to second the motion made by the honourable junior member for the City that the House go into Committee on the memorandum. He said that he wanted to make a few comments in a general way in view of the fact that the honourable senior member for St. Joseph had intimated to the House that the memorandum would be sent to the Committee and that any head could be discussed if members felt that way about the matter.

### Oppression

The five year plan in a general way, not only had given him a feeling that it was going to be five years of oppression for the masses of the country but would also give that feeling to many thinking persons in the community.

From a casual survey of the plan, one could see that the masses would have to draw their belts tighter and prepare themselves to enter the train which was leaving for the Mental Hospital, the Almshouse and other institutions where hardships forced one to go.

Since the increase in wages had been brought about, Government was trying to find a way to take back some of it from the people under the guise of the five year plan which was then before them, and was not going to bring anything beneficial to the masses in the country.

The plan did not offer any permanent employment or security to those who were devoid of such things in the past. Government was imposing more taxes on the poor people. In a colony like Barbados where there was a redundant population, about 30% were unemployed and then there was another percentage of unemployables.

### Critical Period

Anyone could see that they were passing through a very critical period as regards the high cost of living and taxation should be relieved as far as possible in the lower brackets—but that was not being done. The socialist Government was saying: "Mr. Porter, Mr. Carter and Mr. Lighterman were want more money from you and we must have it."

Mr. Alder said that if the Government had decided to embark on the construction of the deep water harbour and also embark on a scheme for improving the services of the Hospital by allocating a million or two dollars, and a scheme for the intensification of food production, they could then sit back and everything else could take care of itself. Those three important items had been given a casual glance by the Government. If Government had paid greater attention to those things, they would not have had the trouble of explaining the justification for the so-called five year plan.

Government did not even know whether it would ever embark in a practical way as regards the deep water harbour which had been the hope of salvation of so many when it was first brought to a discussion stage.

Continuing, he said that he was not sure if those responsible for providing a plan of the kind that the Chamber were doing it on their own wishes and for the good of the people. He could not think that honourable members who from time to time had promised and the people to take them from out of the land of bondage and carry them far up to the promised land would now be coming down with such a plan to further oppress the people.

Only a few weeks ago they had given heads of departments indiscriminate increases in salaries and the small fellow got nothing and on the back of it, Government had come back saying, "Mr. Pauper we want your shilling."

He said that supposing Government even prevented bus concessionaires from increasing fares, bus concessionaires would take other measures to offset the loss in their revenue. They would whittle down the pay of their employees. When he thought of the hardships that would be created on the people, he wondered whether the Leader of the House thought himself so much a controlling person of the masses that he could do anything to them.

### No Duplication

The Leader of the House had spoken of the Five Year Plan as being a duplication of their election manifesto, but that was incorrect. If it were like their manifesto, there would have been no cause for opposing it. In the manifesto the Leader had many grandiose schemes to persuade the people to vote for them. In it were written such things as, "We feel that the masses should share in governing their own colony."

There should be a redistribution of land. Such were all words, a studious policy of misleading the people.

The Government was leaving the old age pensioners to receive a paltry sum, they were leaving them to eke out an existence by walking the streets begging alms.

The honourable member had at times expressed the feeling that he would disendow the church, but nothing had been done in that direction. From that he could have saved a lot of taxation. Without any demand from the clergy, the Leader had increased their salaries and made it possible for them to get leave passages. After promising disendowment, he gave the clergy a status that they did not expect. Barbados was the only colony with an established church. To have disestablished the church would have been to relieve the small man, but they were not interested in relieving the small man.

Honourable members knew, could have read that colonies poorer than Barbados had vaccinated the people against tuberculosis. Appeals had been made for a tuberculosis sanatorium, but the so-called socialist Government had offered no hope for any unfortunate tuberculosis sick. It was an insult to the fair name of Barbados to ask Trinidad or Jamaica to accept Barbados tuberculosis cases.

About two or three years ago the Senior Member for St. Joseph had asked them to vote \$7,000 to survey the East Coast Road, giving the suggestion that they were about to work there. But nothing was included in the five year plan along that line.

### No Investment

The increasing of salaries unreasonably was not an investment. If they had spent the money for the unreasonably increases to build roads, a hospital perhaps, a croche and things that sort which were of first importance to the colony it would have been more seemly.

There had been a steady scarcity of food such as potatoes, breadfruits, etc., and for the past years they had been asking the Government to allocate money to improve the sources of food supplies, but the Government had calmly overlooked that. It had been hard to see housewives rushing for potatoes. They had an Agricultural Department and did not make sufficient use of it.

It was peculiar that while one might call beer a luxury, and scarcely rum, they found that the Government had taxed rum higher than beer. They were making it easier for the rich man to buy rum than for the poor man to buy rum.

Mr. Alder then moved the adjournment of the House until next September 1952, the Commissioner of Police minuted the Officers' Visiting Book at Speightstown Police Post to the effect that policemen reporting sick "for trivial reasons" must work eight days between their day-off periods, and that the said Commissioner would order special physical training for such men.

## Questions In House Of Assembly

Mr. J. E. T. Branker tabled the following questions at Wednesday's meeting of the House of Assembly:

1. Is it a fact that, on the 26th September 1952, the Commissioner of Police minuted the Officers' Visiting Book at Speightstown Police Post to the effect that policemen reporting sick "for trivial reasons" must work eight days between their day-off periods, and that the said Commissioner would order special physical training for such men?
2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will the Government, in view of the Calver Recommendations that a policeman's period of duty should be for seven days followed by a day-off period, see to it that this order of the Commissioner is not put into effect and that the members of the Police Force are not unreasonably deprived of their regular off-duty periods?
3. Is it also a fact that Police Constables are required to act as chauffeurs for Police officers whether these Police officers are on duty or not?
4. If the answer to 3 is in the affirmative, has permission been granted by the Governor-in-Chief Executive Committee for this; and does dissatisfaction exist among the policemen who are so required to act as chauffeurs?

## New Director For W.I. Radio Programmes

LONDON. Mr. Roy Graham Dunlop, a Canadian, has been appointed Programme Director for Overseas Radio, Ltd., which operates radio stations on five continents and in more than 48 languages. It has stations in Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana and Barbados, among other British Colonies.

Mr. Dunlop will have overall charge of the programme management for these stations and will establish his head office in Bermuda. He is now in London, but will leave shortly on a tour of the company's stations in the Far East.

Mr. Dunlop, who is 44, began his career as a journalist and later ran his own radio station in Canada. Later, he became an executive of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and from 1946 to 1949 he was in charge of broadcasting in China. He joined Radio International in Hong Kong and has since visited all overseas stations of the group, the largest broadcasting organisation in the world. —B.U.P.

## Alligators As Pets

### Twelve-Inch Babies Are In Demand

PEOPLE seeking novel pets are turning to alligators — not full-grown ones, but 12in. babies. Hundreds of these pets are reaching London from India, British Guiana and parts of Africa.

"There is a growing craze for baby alligators which can be bought for 50s. each," said a livestock importer.

"They are harmless, soon recognise their owners, and get used to being handled."

"They must have water available, such as an aquarium tank. As a diet they like worms from river mud, minnows and sticklebacks."

"Another unusual pet gaining in popularity is the chameleon, a little lovable creature with the ability to change colour at will. Prices range according to size. A 4in. baby costs 25s." —L.S.S.

## B.W.I. Sugar Exports Worth £22m. In 1951

LONDON. Exports of sugar from the British West Indies were worth £22,000,000 in 1951, according to the Commonwealth Economic Committee, in a memorandum entitled "Commonwealth Trade in 1951", just published in London.

The figures given trace the rise in the value of West Indian sugar exports from £5,000,000 in 1938 to £12,000,000 in 1948, to £18,000,000 in 1949, to £21,000,000 in 1950 and £22,000,000 in 1951.

But West Indian sugar exports have increased in value far less than the export commodities of other territories. Malayan rubber exports, for example, which were worth £32,000,000 in 1938, rose to the staggering total of £461,000,000 in 1951, to become the most valuable export commodity of the entire Colonial Empire.

Similar stories are told in the figures for other export commodities. West African cocoa exports rose from £4,000,000 in 1938 to £97,000,000 in 1951, Malayan tin from £11,000,000 to £97,000,000, Northern Rhodesian copper from £9,000,000 to £55,000,000, and East African sisal from £2,000,000 to £31,000,000.

### In Touch With Barbados Coastal Station

CABLE AND WIRELESS (West Indies) Ltd., advise that they can now communicate with the following ships through their Barbados coast station:—

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