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GRENADA

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GRENADA NEWSLETTER FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 30TH

FINANCE HINDLED

Mr Herbert Blaise, Leader of the Opposition in the Grenada House of Representatives, said this week that Prime Minister Gairy and Minister of Finance, Mr George Hosten, "just can't keep their heads straight when it comes to Government money".

This comment from the leader of the Opposition was with reference to the British grant of 1.2 million dollars (EC) "diverted" into unauthorised ^{channels} ~~channels~~ by the Grenada Government, and Mr Blaise said, "It is 1962 all over again. It is the same combination of Gairy and Hosten playing havoc with Government financing".

This reference to 1962 concerns the Report of the Field Commission of Enquiry into the Control of Public Expenditure in Grenada. At that time, Mr Gairy was Grenada's Chief Minister and Minister of Finance, while Mr George Hosten was employed in the Civil Service as a Principal Secretary.

Host on Error.

The Field Commission reported that Mr Gairy, "apparently bent on error", had embarked on a "series of financial adventures", and had relied on financial advice from Mr Hosten who, the Commission found "on his own evidence, had no understanding of the laws and regulations governing expenditure, and who, by his demeanour under examination,

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conveyed a regrettable impression that such matters were, in his opinion, of no account."

Continuing his comment on the British grant misapplied by the Grenada Government, Mr Blaise said the pointers for Grenada were serious. "Government must have been in desperate financial straits to take the chance they did with British Development Funds", he said, "Consider what could be happening with local funds."

Mr Blaise thought that what had come out so far might be mere smoke, and that the fire could be behind. (267 words)

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GO-BLOW AT GRENADA FIRM

In a letter addressed to the firm of Jonas Browne & Hubbard Ltd, the Grenada Seamen & Waterfront Workers Union has declared its stand in support of the Commercial & Industrial Workers Union (CIWU), now seeking recognition as the Bargaining Body for the clerks at that firm.

On October 1st, Jonas Browne & Hubbard Ltd (whose interests include supermarkets, shipping, hardware, building material and insurance), served quit notices on several of the staff, and it was reported that the firm was considering serious retrenchment. On October 14th, CIWU wrote the Management seeking recognition as the Bargaining Body for the clerks, but no reply was received until November 7th.

Hot Exchanges

At that time, the Union was told the matter was being considered, but this was regarded as a move to delay discussions on the workers'

behalf, and it is reported that, in a brief personal encounter between the Union's President, Senator Eric Pierre and the firm's Managing Director, Mr Fred Toppin, there was a hot exchange of words.

The clerks employed at Jones Browne & Hubbard Ltd are now engaged in a "go-slow" to force Management to recognize their Union, and Senator Pierre has warned that any attempt to penalise the staff could result in a total shut-down of the firm.

In the mean time, in their letter to the Management of the firm, the Seamen & Waterfront Workers Union has stated that they are "supporting the workers' cause", and Management has been called upon "to do the right/thing in the interest of harmonious industrial relations"
and just

(251 words)

CARICOM SECRETARY-GENERAL IN GRENADA

Dr Alister McIntyre, Secretary-General of CARICOM, was guest speaker at the recently launched Grenada Consumers Association. Grenada born Dr McIntyre chose as his subject, "The Role of the Consumer Organisation in the Commonwealth Caribbean", and he advised Grenadians to undertake an aggressive campaign to promote growth of national savings and more effective patterns of consumer services.

"It is extremely necessary," Dr McIntyre said, "that Grenadians should insulate themselves from the pressure of mounting prices of imported goods and services," and he told his listeners that, while it was always difficult to reduce the cost of living, consumers should make

every effort to reduce their high cost of living.

Forecasts

Dr McIntyre pointed out that Grenadians were now spending on goods and services, four times as much as the island received for its main agricultural crops, and he noted that current forecasts gave no indication of an early easing of the situation as far as price increases in industrial countries were concerned.

On the matter of CARICOM, Mr the Secretary-General gave the assurance that this regional Body was not concerned merely with the production of goods. CARICOM was also interested in the question of consumption. "The Governments of the region," he said, "have already played their part in providing facilities which the Caribbean Community is now offered, and it is up to the citizens of the region to step up production by studying the available opportunities and making full use of them."

(236 words)

ALISTAR HUGHES - GRENADA MEMORIAL - WORK ENDING NOVEMBER 30th 1974



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