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GRENADA

18th October 1975

THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER

For Week Ending October 18th 1975

GCNA INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE DEEPENS.

1/01 3 No 34

Mr Eric Pierre, President of the Commercial & Industrial Workers Union (CIWU), said today (18th) that he was disturbed that the Interim Board of the Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association (GCNA) "seemed determined to provoke workers who were merely seeking their rights to collective bargaining."

Mr Pierre was referring to a letter dated October 11th received by his Union from Mr Robin Renwick, Manager of GCNA, in which the Union was advised that the "representation of the Association's daily and monthly paid workers is still under active consideration by the Board ...."

"The matter of representation is not in dispute", said Mr Pierre. "This was settled a long time ago", he continued, "and if the Interim Board maintains its present attitude, it is difficult to predict what the outcome of this matter will be."

In connection with the "go-slow" by monthly paid workers, Mr Renwick has advised CIWU that if this is found to affect the Association's work, "the Board will have no alternative but to make other arrangements to ensure that the work of the Association continues and that the Association discharges its duties to Nutmeg Producers."

In the mean time, in a letter dated October 17th, the powerful Seamen & Waterfront Workers Union (SWWU) has advised GCNA that it supports the cause of CIWU. "From our observations", the letter says, "it appears that the Board has not acted as one would have expected in dealing with the workers' accredited representative (the Union), and we view the developments that have taken place, so far, as an attempt by the Board to deny workers their fundamental Human Right to organise in Trade Unions of their choice for the purpose of collective bargaining." SWWU has urged GCNA to "do the right and just thing in the interest of harmonious industrial relations."

(298 words)

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TEACHERS PEEVED.

The Grenada Union of Teachers (GUT) may resort to industrial action if immediate solutions are not forthcoming in some matters which are causing grave concern.

This was the feeling of a GUT Conference held on October 12th, and the principal matter concerning the Union is Government's refusal to accede to a request for an interim cost-of-living allowance pending a salaries revision. In addition, GUT claims that Government has added insult to injury in that the Union has been told there will be no revision of salaries until 1976, and then only provided that Government's off-shore oil prospecting efforts are successful.

Another complaint of GUT relates to the procedure by which teachers have been selected to attend the Grenada Teachers College and by which Principals and Assistant Principals of schools have been appointed. Calling this the "scandal of the year", the Union claims that "many teachers were set aside and their juniors selected."

In addition, the Union complains of victimisation of teachers by transfers, the failure of Government to implement the Education Regulations which should have come into effect in 1973, and discourtesy and disrespect of Ministries in not replying to communications.

(195 words)

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POOR SCHOOL-LEAVING RESULTS.

On Tuesday October 14th, the Chief Education Officer, Mr R O Palmer, released results of the 1975 School Leaving Examinations held in Grenada during the period 26th to 30th May last.

It has been revealed that nearly the exact number of pupils took the examination in 1975 as in 1974, the figure for 1974 being 1119, and that for 1975, 1113. Of the 1974 figure, 664 were girls, and in 1975, 658 were girls.

Results show that of the 653 girls taking the examination this year, only 121 or 18.39% were successful. The figure for the boys was lower, 80 or 17.58% having passed.

In this examination, English and Elementary Maths are compulsory and the candidate must offer three other optional subjects drawn from the school course. To qualify for a pass, a 40% mark in ENGLISH AND MATHS AND 34% in each of the optional subjects is required. In addition, total marks must produce an aggregate of 40% of the total possible marks in English, Elementary Maths and the three optional subjects.

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ONE-MAN COMMISSION APPOINTED.

According to the Government Gazette of October 10th, Mr H R P Dennison has been appointed a one-man Commission to inquire into :-

- (a) the financial affairs of the Nutmeg Association during the term of office of the Grenada Nutmeg Board recently dissolved by Government with relation to the period 1st June 1969 to 4th July 1975 ;
- (b) the Boards Accounts over the relevant period, looking into its spendings appropriations or otherwise; and to report on such findings and make recommendations.

It is understood that Mr Dennison is a Guyanese who retired from the Public Service of that country as Commissioner of Inland Revenue. Mr Dennison was originally scheduled to arrive in Grenada this week but is now expected to get here during the course of next week.

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ANTIGUA TO HAVE NEW ELECTION LAW

During a visit to Antigua this week, NEWSLETTER attended the debate on the Representation of the People Act introduced into Parliament by Premier George Walter.

Premier Walter said this Act would replace the State's Constitution & Election Ordinance which came into effect 24 years ago but which is now "outmoded, unwieldy and unsuited to the needs of the country ....."

The new Bill prohibits the use of foreign television and radio stations for electioneering purposes and imposes controls on the

use of Antiguan radio and television stations for this purpose. First, no "item about the constituency or electoral area" may be televised or broadcast from a station within the State if any candidate takes part in the item and the broadcast is not made with his consent. When consent is given, the broadcast must not be made before Nomination Day, and, after that day, any opposing candidate must give consent for the broadcast.

Another feature of the Bill is that it is illegal to employ paid canvassers and "no payment .... for the purpose of promoting .. .. election of a candidate .... be made on account of bands of music, torches, flags and banners."

All existing electoral lists of voters will be scrapped and a new list will be made during the period 17th to 23rd November next when eligible voters are required to visit Registration Offices in person to be registered.

The Antigua Parliament must be dissolved early in February next and political observers predict that General Elections will be held in late February or early March. Premier George Walter has pledged to take Antigua into independence if his Progressive Labour Party is returned to power.

( 234 words)

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CRUISE LINER CALLS

There was only one cruise liner call at Grenada during the week ending October 11th, this being the "Cunard Adventurer" which docked at St. Georges on October 7th with 525 passengers.

(30 words)

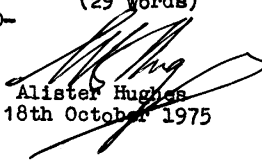
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BANANA SHIPMENTS.

Over the two days of October 13th and 14th, the S S "Geestide" loaded 28,549 boxes of bananas weighing 850,739 lbs and valued at EC\$80,820.00. There were 56 boxes of rejected fruit.

(29 words)

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