The Grenada Newsletter

Volume 15 Saturday October 18th 1987 Number 15

NDC TO BE LAUNCHED
OCTOBER 18TH

Mr. George Brizan designated Political Leader of the proposed National Democratic Congress (NDC), disclosed in an interview with NEWSLETTER on September 26th that the Party will be launched formally at a convention on October 18th.

"That convention will constitute our National Executive by election," he said, "and we will ratify our Party's Constitution and Statement of Principles and Policies".

The Constitution provides for a Political Leader, Mr. Brizan said, and there will be two Deputy-Political Leaders. In addition to other offices, there will be a Chairman of the Party, he said, a Deputy-Chairman and a General Secretary.

Prominent

The six members of the Opposition in the Grenada House of Representatives form the nucleus of NDC. Most prominent of these are Mr. Brizan, who is Leader of the Opposition in the House, and Dr. Francis Alexis.

Both Mr. Brizan and Dr. Alexis were Political Leaders in their own right prior to August 1984 when they merged their Parties with Mr. Herbert Blaize's Grenada National Party, creating a unified front to fight the General Elections of December 3rd 1984.

Dr. Alexis' party was the Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM) and Mr. Brizan led the National Democratic Party (NDP).

Coming together, the three Parties became the New National Party (NNP) led by Prime Minister Blaize, but, with effect from last April 14th, both Dr. Alexis and Mr. Brizan resigned from NNP.

At that time, Mr. Brizan held the Ministerial portfolios of Fisheries, Education, Culture and Co-operatives while Dr. Alexis was charged with the portfolios of Labour and Legal Affairs. Additionally, Dr. Alexis held the post of Attorney General.

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Before the resignations, it had been known for some time that there was friction between the Prime Minister and these two members of his Cabinet. They had sniped at Mr. Blaize publicly charging the Prime Minister with being "dictatorial", but the final break came, principally, on the issue of Government's policy of retrenchment in

See NDC Page 2
Mr. Samuel Graham (75) is Grenada’s new Chief Justice. According to the Government Information Service, he was sworn in by Governor General Sir Paul Scoon on October 1st.

Mr. Graham was born in Trinidad and educated in Barbados. Headteacher at Wesley Hall School in Grenada from 1936 to 1943, he then joined the editorial staff of Grenada’s “West Indian” newspaper for about a year.

Migrating to Trinidad in 1944, he worked with the “Trinidad Guardian” newspaper, returning to Grenada in 1946 to rejoin the staff of the “West Indian”.

During this period, Mr. Graham studied law and passed the Bar Finals in 1947. He was called to the Bar at Gray’s Inn two years later and entered private practice in Grenada in the same year.

Crown Attorney

From 1953 to 1957, he served as a Magistrate in St. Lucia following which he took up an appointment as Crown Attorney in St. Kitts, holding that post for two years.

The Chief Justice was a Puisne Judge in British Honduras (now Belize) from 1966 to 1969.

Mr. Graham was appointed Chairman of the Grenada Development Bank (GDB) and Grenada Industrial Corporation (GIC) in 1985. Telephone inquiries made by NEWSLETTER for him to those organisations received responses that he was “out”, and it could not be ascertained whether, with his appointment as Chief Justice, he has retained the Chairmanship of GDB and GIC.


Following the Elections, Mr. Peters joined Sir Eric in condemning those elections as “rigged” and, in protest, refused to take his seat when the House first met on December 28th 1984. He changed his mind, however, and took his seat at the next meeting on February 4th 1985.

“I thank God who gave me the wisdom and...”

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MORMONS CHARGED WITH RACISM

THE JOY OF THE GRENADA BRANCH of the Mormon Church, in celebrating an important milestone on October 21st was tempered by implications of an unresolved confrontation between the Church and the New National Party (NNP) Government of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize.

Exactly one hundred and sixty-four years ago, on 21st September 1823, the Mormon Church received its foundation when, according to records of that Church, the founder, Joseph Smith, was visited by a supernatural being.

"He called me by name", Smith’s testimony claims, "and said unto me that he was a messenger sent from the presence of God to me, and that his name was Maroni......."

Stone Box
According to Smith, Maroni said God had a work for Smith to do and Smith was directed to a hill near the town of Manchester in Ontario Country, New York, U.S.A. There, Smith records, he found a "stone box" in which was a book, "written with gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent" (America).

Smith was not allowed to unearth the plates until four years later, he says, when, on 22nd September 1827, "......the same heavenly messenger delivered them to me ......"

Smith translated these "plates" into "The Book of Mormon", the "bible" of the Mormons or "Church Of Latter Day Saints", and that translation is at the heart of some of the confrontation with the Grenada Government.

On September 8th in St Georges, a meeting was held by two representatives of the Mormons, Elder Throughtbridge and Mrs Throughbridge, with Senator Norton Noel, Parliamentary Secretary and Leader of Government Business in the Senate, and Mr Felix Alexander, Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Affairs.

According to a Government Information Service (GIS) release, that meeting was called, in part, to seek clarification on teachings of the Mormons with reference to the Negro race, the need for clarifications arising from certain statements in "The Book of the Mormons".

That book teaches that, when the confusion of languages (referred to in the Christian Bible) took place at the Tower of Babel, God allowed one family to continue to have the ability to communicate with each other and this family, the Jaredites, crossed the Atlantic and settled on the American continent.

Prejudice
About 600 B.C., the Mormons say, another wave of immigrants arrived in America from Jerusalem. This second wave split into two nations, the Nephites and the Lamanites, and the record of the "Book Of The Mormons" relative to the Lamanites has given rise to a charge against the Mormons of racial prejudice.

In chapter 3, verse 6 of the Book of Alma, (part of the Book of the Mormons), a curse against the Lamanites is recorded.

"And the skins of the Lamanites were dark", the Book of Alma says, "according to the mark which was set upon their fathers, which was a curse upon them because of......"

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**NEW SENATOR APPOINTED**

Mr John DeRoche has replaced Mr Franklyn Bullen as Government appointed Senator and Parliamentary Secretary responsible for Carriacou and Petit Martinique affairs.

Mr Bullen resigned on September 30th and, on October 1st, Governor General Sir Paul Scoon having issued Mr DeRoche Instruments of Appointment to the Senate, the new Senator took his Oath of Allegiance on the same day as Parliamentary Secretary responsible for Carriacou and Petit Martinique Affairs.

DeRoche was born in Petit Martinique. He passed the Pupil Teachers Examination, holds a Junior Cambridge Certificate and taught at the Petit Martinique Roman Catholic Primary School from 1939 to 1946.

According to the Government Information Service, Mr DeRoche migrated to Cayenne, French Guyana, where he worked before returning to Grenada 1959. In 1966, he moved to Canada, retiring from his employment there in 1983 and returned to live in Carriacou.

**MORMONS from Page 3**

their transgression "

Details of that curse are set out, as follows, in Chapter 2, verse 21 of the Second Book of Naphi, another part of the Book of the Mormons: -

"...wherefore, as they were white, and exceedingly fair and delightful, that they may not be enticing unto my people, the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them."

When the Mormon representatives met with Senator Norton Noel and Mr Felix Alexander on September 8th, this teaching was brought to the attention of Elder Throughtbridge.

"The Book of The Mormons teaches",

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**NDC From Page 2**

guidance to be present here today", he said on that occasion.

As the only member of the Opposition then (the NNP won 14 of the 15 seats in the House), Mr Peters was made Leader of the Opposition and held that post until February 16th 1987 when Mr St Louis was appointed. (Mr St Louis was Leader of the Opposition until September 8th 1987 when Mr Brizan was appointed)

Rigged

On March 6th 1985, Mr Peters launched his own party, the Grenada Democratic Labour Party (GDLP) and, at that time, publicly withdrew the charge that the 1984 Elections were rigged. GDLP never became active and Mr Peters has now thrown his lot with NDC.

In addition to the six Opposition members, another member of the proposed NDC is Mr Jerome Joseph who was a member of Mr Brizan's NDP before the merger. Mr Joseph was an NNP appointed Senator who resigned last April at the same time as Dr Alexis and Messes Brizan and Thomas.

Three persons now holding seats in the Senate are members of the proposed NDC. They are Mr Pope McLean, Mr Albert Forsythe and Mr Terrence Griffith.

**Unsuccessful**

Mr McLean was a member of the Butler Party (BP) in Trinidad & Tobago and won the Point-a-Pierre seat on that ticket in the 1950 General Elections. He returned to Grenada in the 1960s and became associated with the GNP but held no public office. Mr McLean contested the St Andrews North East seat in the December 1984 Elections under the banner of the NNP and was that Party's only unsuccessful candidate. He was defeated by Mr Marcel Peters.

Mr Albert Forsythe (57) entered politics when, as an independent, he won a by-election for the Constituency of St Johns/St Marks on 6th October 1960. Some six months later, he joined the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) of Sir Eric Gairy, remaining a member of that party until Sir Eric's Administration.

See NDC Page 7
GRENADE'S TOURISM ON UP-SWING: ANDREWS

TOURISM IN Grenada is experiencing a positive up-swing and the Tourism Authorities are developing imaginative programmes to supplement the island’s natural attractions of sand, sea and sunshine.

Mrs Pauline Andrews, Minister of State for Tourism, disclosed this in an interview with NEWSLETTER on September 28th and said a great deal of emphasis is being placed on development of National Parks and Nature Centres.

Enhanced "The Visitors Centre in the Grand Etang Lake National Park has been enhanced", she said, "There is now a video presentation of Grenada’s flora and fauna, explaining the beach and reef areas and giving details of other natural features of the island. In addition, the Centre will offer many new attractions this coming Winter Season."

These attractions include trails with picnic areas and barb-que facilities, Mrs Andrews said. For those who prefer not to go on foot, there will be donkey-cart rides and boating on the lake.

For the hikers, there is an interesting innovation in keeping with Grenada’s reputation of being the “Spice Island in the Caribbean”. On the shorter trails, a carpet of aromatic nutmeg shells has been laid down.

Perfume The hiker’s footsteps, crushing those shells, release the aroma of nutmeg and generate the exotic perfume of spice, she said.

Scenic look-out points and birdwatching positions have been created, she said, and, for the more adventurous, there is the Mount Qua Qua trail winding upward, over 2,000 feet, to the mid-point of Grenada, and affording a spectacular panoramic view.

The shorter Morne La Bay trail displays the sweep of the basin of the Great River, draining the island’s eastern watershed and flowing away to its estuary close to Grenada’s second town of Grenville.

"There is another trail which has not yet been completely mapped out" Mrs Andrews said, "This one goes to the ‘Seven Sisters’ waterfalls east of the Nature Centre, and bathing in the sparkling mountain pools fed by these falls is an invigorating experience."

Facilities at the waterfalls at Annandale and Concord have also been enhanced, Mrs Andrews said. At Annandale, a “Spice Trail” has been created where the visitor can see and smell a variety of spices growing along the path.

Bridges Changing cubicles and toilet facilities have been installed and, at Concord, bridges have been built across the river to provide access to the upper falls.

The Minister of State said Tourism in Grenada is developing satisfactorily. Its expansion can be gauged by the fact that, while in 1985 the island had 580 first class rooms, that figure has now climbed to 743 and is expected to reach nearly 800 by the end of this year.

"I don’t like to sweep the bad things under the carpet", Mrs Andrews said, "and, along with the undoubtedly growing success of the Industry, I must admit we have had some problems over the last two years."

One of these problems, she said, was the behaviour of some taxi drivers who overcharge, are discourteous and make no effort to give visitors information.

Complaints Another problem is harassment of visitors by vendors, she said, and there have been serious complaints about this.

To solve these problems, she said, seminars have been put on for both the taxi drivers and the vendors. Not only are they educated on the history and background of the island, Mrs Andrews said, but they are schooled in such matters as their mode of dress, the way they approach visitors, and the fact that harassment will operate against them in the long run.

"These seminars are being undertaken on an ongoing basis."
THE ECONOMY "NOT VERY BRIGHT": TOPPIN
Government Depleting Sources Of Funds

MR FRED TOPPIN, MANAGING Director of Jonas Browne & Hubbard Ltd, one of Grenada’s biggest firms, said in an interview with NEWSLETTER on October 9th he sees the island’s economy as being “not very bright”.

“The obvious reason is Government does not have any money”, he said, “and in order to meet their commitments, they are depleting many of the sources of funds, such as the two Government Banks and the National Insurance Scheme”.

This is unhealthy for the country, he said, and there is no mistaking the down-swing in the economic trend.

FALSE
The Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association is expected to pay farmers a large dividend during the last quarter in this year, Mr Toppin said, and this may give the false impression there is a lot of money around, but he predicted 1988 will be a very “quiet”, year economically and commercially.

“The construction business is always a good barometer of the economy”, he said, “and we are still getting a fair amount of business in the building trade, but one is tending to see a fall off in this area.”

Mr Toppin said the present political situation does not help the position as people are not certain what the future holds, and the inadequate service rendered by Grenada Electricity Services is another adverse factor.

POWER CUTS
“We have been waiting for 10 years to get electricity on a fairly continuous basis”, he said, “and last year when our Company put down a paint plant in the south end of the island, we were assured we would get what is necessary in water and electricity. Now, at this critical time of the year when we should be producing fully, we find we have power cuts half of the day”.

It seems strange to people who have invested in industry in Grenada that Government makes such loud political boasting about new areas in the country being connected to the electricity system, Mr Toppin said, while, at the same time, Grenada Electricity Services cannot supply their existing customers.

“It is clear that the opening up of new areas in these circumstances is definitely just a political move”, he said.

DECLINE
For the financial year ending 30th September, the Managing Director said, sales of Jonas Browne & Hubbard Ltd were down 5%. The change over to the Value Added Tax (VAT) system will have had the effect of showing a decline in sales as “part of your sales dollar belongs to the Government”, Mr Toppin said, but the trend, generally, is down and will continue that way in 1988.

TOURISM From Page 5
Mrs Andrews said, “and, in this connection, we now have funding from the Organisation of American States to undertake classes and a programme in tourism development”.

A training session has now been completed for policemen who serve at the Port and for Immigration and Customs officers at points of entry, she said, and this has already begun to show good effect in the handling of the visitor flow and the control of harassment.

She is extremely critical of Grenada’s standards as far as Tourism is concerned, Mrs Andrews said, and, while visitors to the island compare Grenada favourably with other destinations, she is aware that there has been change and Grenadians are not as friendly as they used to be.

“To the visitor, comparing us with other places, Grenada is a heaven,” she said.

See TOURISM Page 10
MEDICAL SCHOOL / PROJECT HOPE CONFLICT

MINISTER of Health, Mr Daniel "Danny" Williams, said at a press conference on October 7th that he is aware of controversy existing between the Grenada based St Georges University School of Medicine and Project Hope, the United States medical organisation which is aiding the Grenada Government.

"There has been tension between the School and Project Hope for some time", the Minister said, "and I have said to them that there should be peaceful coexistence".

Problem
The Minister said the basis of the problem is that Project Hope will not fall in with the request of the Medical School that the School's students "have some measure of accommodation" with the Project Hope specialists who work at the General Hospital.

"Project Hope does not want to have dealings with students of the Medical School", he said, "they don't want to teach them, they don't want to supervise students of a Medical School which is a private business".

Terms
Under the terms of an Agreement with the Grenada Government, the General Hospital may be used by the Medical School for teaching purposes and, since the School was established 10 years ago, its students have been attached to doctors there in this connection.

See CONFLICT Page 11

NDC From Page 4

was overthrown by the New Jewel Movement revolution of 13th March 1979.

Mr Forsythe has been a junior Minister for Agriculture under Sir Eric's leadership and, at the time of the overthrow, was Minister for Works and Communications. In the 1984 General Elections, he was an unsuccessful GULP candidate and, renouncing that Party, became a foundation member of Mr Peters' Grenada Democratic Labour Party when that Party was launched in March 1985.

Recommendation
Mr Forsythe was appointed to the Senate on the recommendation of Mr Peters when Mr Peters was Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Terrence Griffith (25) was appointed a Senator on the recommendation of Mr Phinny St Louis when Mr St Louis was Leader of the Opposition. Mr Griffith was a member of Maurice Bishop's New Jewel Movement (NJM) after the 1979 revolution and was involved in youth work for that Party.

When Mr Lalsingh launched the DLC in August last year, Mr Griffith was a foundation member and said, at that time, he had dropped out of NJM because he believes in "the democratic institution".

Background
Another foundation member of Mr Lalsingh's DLC who is now a member of the proposed NDC is Mr Michael Pitt (41).

On the occasion of the DLC launching, Mr Pitt disclosed that he had lived in Toronto, Canada, for the past 15 years and that he has "an educational business background".

Prominent among the members of the proposed NDC is Mr Michael Andrews, President of the Grenada Bar Association, who was a member of Mr Brizan's NDP and the NNP after the merger. Mr Andrews chaired the first public meeting held by Dr Alexis with Messrs Brizan and Thomas, after their resignations from NNP.

See NDC Page 8
SIX CONFIRMED CASES OF AIDS IN GRENADA

Since the first case of AIDS was discovered in Grenada in 1985, the island has had six confirmed cases of which three have died, and there are two or three yet unconfirmed cases under observation.

Caution
This was disclosed by Minister of Health Mr Daniel "Danny" Williams at a press conference on October 7th, but he urged caution in considering these statistics.

"It is always difficult to tell the records on AIDS at any one time", he said, "What you can do is to say, to date, what has been disclosed, because we may be looking at just the tip of the iceberg".

The Minister said the six confirmed cases were all "imported", that is, the victims are Grenadians who came from abroad with the disease, and there is no evidence yet of AIDS having been passed on by these persons to others on the island.

Fact
Mr Williams said this is an encouraging fact but should not be used as an excuse for complacency because, in the medical world, a multiplier of 50 to 100 is used for every confirmed case to estimate the number of likely infections in the population.

Stressed
The Minister attended the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) annual meeting in Washington from 21st to 26th September, and he told the press conference that, at that meeting, he had stressed the vulnerability of Grenada to the AIDS threat.

"I made the point to PAHO that, because of our peculiar position, we have to be more concerned about AIDS than some other countries", he said, "and I base this on the fact the population is exposed in several areas.

Depends
One area, he said, is Tourism, on which Grenada depends heavily, and which involves a flow of people through the country. Another area is that of "Traficking", he said, business carried on See AIDS Page 10

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NDC From Page 7

The following is a chart of the political history of NDC membership:

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NDP = The National Democratic Party
GDLP = Grenada Democratic Labour Party
DLC = Democratic Labour Congress
NJM = The New Jewel Movement
NNP = New National Party
MORMONS FROM PAGE 4

The GIS release says, “there were two tribes in the year 600 BC which settled in North Central America where they lived until one tribe was exterminated by the other because of alleged apostacy (and) for their sin, according to the Mormons, they were cursed with a black skin and flattened noses. This and other matters taught by the Church, including the prohibition of Blacks from the Mormon priesthood, were drawn to the attention of the Elder”.

Ancient History

“While not disclaiming the teaching”, the GIS release says, “he (Elder Throughbridge) referred to them as ‘ancient history’, saying that Blacks can now become Ministers”.

In an interview on October 20th, another Mormon representative, Elder Southwick, told NEWSLETTER that, at the meeting on September 8th, the subject of racial discrimination was not discussed.

“The GIS release is correct as far as it records what was discussed”, he said, “but as far as the racism part about being cursed with a black skin and a flat nose, that’s not true, that was never brought up at the meeting”.

Work-Permits

GIS says another matter discussed by the Government representatives with the Throughbridges was the fact that non-Grenadian Mormon Ministers were working in the island without work-permits.

At the meeting, Mrs Throughbridge behaved very arrogantly, the GIS release says; She burst into song, says ‘GIS, and then “......proceeded to read a letter written in one of the local papers in defence of the Mormons, and ended her performance with a period of violent banging on the table......”

According to GIS, an apology for this behaviour was demanded and was received but “......the contents of the apology were unacceptable”.

Reconsidered

Informed sources said that, following the meeting, Government indicated to Elder Throughbridge that the Mormons would not be allowed to remain in Grenada, but this decision is now being reconsidered.

In the interview with NEWSLETTER on September 20th, Elder Southwick said that on September 11th, Sir Fred Phillip, prominent Caribbean barrister, had had an interview with Prime Minister Blaize on behalf of the Mormons.

Elder Southwick said he could say no more than that and, on the insistence of another Elder (who did not give his name) that “we should not get involved”, Elder Southwick terminated the interview saying that the Mormon Mission President in Barbados should be approached for any required information.

“I’ve told you all I know”, Elder Southwick told NEWSLETTER, “the lawyers and the President know what took place at the meeting with the Prime Minister. You’ll have to ask the President”.

In response to a request for a reaction to the charge of racial discrimination laid against the Mormon Church, the unnamed Elder said the activities of the Church are sufficient answer to that charge.

“How could we be racist?”, he asked. “If we are racist, how could we be working in Grenada? How could we be all over Africa?”

Detractors of the Mormon religion brand “The Book Of The Mormons” a fake and give an alternate version of its authorship.

Romance

The volume is founded upon a religious romance entitled, “The Manuscript Found”, the alternate version says. That romance was written, early in the 19th Century, by a Presbyterian Minister of Religion, Solomon Spalding, and, after his death, his widow took it to New York with the hope of finding a publisher.

By some means, this version says, the manuscript came into possession of...
GEF CELEBRATES
25TH ANNIVERSARY

In the absence of a central organisation serving the needs of the employers of the country, Grenada would run the risk of lapsing into industrial chaos.

Achievements

Mrs Angela Smith, Executive Director of the Grenada Employers Federation (GEF), expressed this opinion on September 26th as she discussed, in an interview with NEWSLETTER, the achievements of her organisation which is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

"Trade Unions have nothing to do but service their Agreements", she said. "They can spend all their time working for their members in pursuit of better fringe benefits and higher wages. Employers, on the other hand, are involved in details of their businesses, imports, exports and sales. They cannot devote all their time to industrial relations".

Essential

Because of this, Mrs Smith said, the Federation has filled an essential need in the community and, generally, has been able to maintain a good working relationship with the trade unions.

"That relationship has not always been good", she said, "it has varied, but there are very few strikes in Grenada today, and the Federation can take credit for helping to maintain a calm industrial climate which is very important to the economy".

Difficult

The years of the New Jewel Movement revolution, 1970 to 1983, the Executive Director said, had been "fairly difficult" for her organisation. During that time, she said, most of the trade unions had the backing of the Peoples Revolutionary Government and this encouraged them to be extremely militant.

Demands

Mrs Smith said the demands made during those years were "a little heavy on the GEF"

AIDS From Page 8

by a host of small traders who travel frequently to neighbouring islands. Mr Williams referred also to students and other Grenadians who live abroad and return home from time to time.

These circumstances, the Minister said, increase the opportunities for making contact with the disease and of introducing it to the population.

Mr Williams said that he had made the point to PAHO that, because of Grenada's vulnerability to the threat of AIDS, more assistance should be given to the health services in the island.

Routine

"For example", he said, "Our medical costs have gone up because of AIDS. In the past, if you went to a health visiting station with a wound, the nurse or doctor would dress it as a routine matter. Now, the moment health personnel see someone with a wound, for their own protection, they reach for gloves before they touch the patient".

Grenada has 27 Health Visiting Stations, 6 Health Centres and 3 Hospitals, the Minister said, and extra costs have to be faced to stock all these places with the necessary extra material to cope with the AIDS threat.
GES METER-READERS ACCUSED OF INCOMPETENCE

INFORMED sources close to the Government owned Grenada Electricity Services (GES) confirmed to NEWSLETTER on October 7th that GES had withdrawn the letter of redundancy issued on October 2nd to the Company’s Meter Inspector, Mr Ignatius Whitman.

Fraud

"Whitman will return to his job", the source said, "and there is to be a full investigation, probably by a Commission of Inquiry with wide powers to look into the possibility of incompetence and fraud".

In an interview with NEWSLETTER on October 6th, Mr Dennis Campbell, Chairman of the GES Board of Management, said the Company is concerned over unexplained discrepancies between total power generated by the Power Station and the total of bills sent to consumers.

Normal

The Chairman said there must be some loss of power in "line losses" and about 15% is considered normal. Over the last year, however, GES has been losing some 20% and a thorough check at the Power Station indicated the problem is not there.

"We decided then to make a physical check of our heavy consumers", he said, "and we discovered that with the Government consumers, the Telephone Company, the Central Water Authority, the International Airport, there was no problem. We found, however, that some other key consumers were being underbilled by a factor of 10%".

Check

This underbilling, Mr Campbell said, was discovered when the Company’s engineers made a physical check of the meters on consumers premises and found meters had been incorrectly read.

The Company’s five meter readers were then called in and asked to read a number of meters set before them, the Chairman said, and it was found that only one meter reader could read all the meters correctly.

Comment

The Accounts Department was asked for a comment on this situation, Mr Campbell said, and that Department advised that, on many occasions, the Meter Inspector, Mr Ignatius Whitman, (who is supposed to verify that meters are being correctly read), when asked to check readings made by meter readers, had, himself, produced wrong readings.

"On the basis of this", the Chairman said, "we could have fired him on the grounds of gross incompetence, but, because he has worked a number of years with the Company, we decided we should pay him all his redundancy benefits and he should get at least EC$30,000.

The letter sent to

CONFLICT From Page 7

After the military intervention of October 1983 and the withdrawing of the Cuban doctors, Project Hope came to Grenada and, since then, has provided assistance to the medical services.

Mr Williams said that, during 1985, after he took office following the General elections of December 1984, there had been no friction between Project Hope and the School.

"There may have been a little tension in 1985" he said, "but, generally, all was well. In 1986, all was well most of the time but, every now and then there was something. In 1987, however, it started to show up".

The question remains, Mr Williams said, as to why, in 1985, there was no "conflagration", in 1986, not much, and now the tension has grown. The Minister expressed the opinion that there must be a compromise solution and he thought he could find it.
"CALABASH" AWARDED "GOLDEN FORK"

THE 22-ROOM "Calabash" hotel, located on an eight acre lot on Lance aux Epines bay on Grenada's south coast, has been awarded the "Golden Fork" by the California based International Food, Wine & Travel Writers Association (IFWTWA).

"Calabash" has received the award, the scroll says, because of demonstrated consistent preparation of fine cuisine, superb offering of fine wines from around the world and for "its well informed, gracious and expert service".

Presented
On behalf of IFWTWA, the award was formally presented to the owner/manager of "Calabash", Mr Leo Garbutt, by Mr & Mrs (Jeanne) Harry Harman, well known travel writers and members of IFWTWA.

NEWSLETTER on October 22nd, Mrs Jeanne Harman said that, worldwide, there are 132 members of IFWTWA, and one of the privileges of membership is to nominate a "Golden Fork" award.

"This award was created about six years ago", she said, "and, to date, just 24 have been awarded".

Hotels receiving the "Golden Fork" are located in Italy, Switzerland, France, England, Hawaii, The United States, she said, and, in addition to the

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and difficult for employers to deal with", but she declined to brand them all as "unrealistic".

Demands
"Some of the demands at that time were unrealistic", she said, "but, to employers, a lot of demands seem unrealistic. One has to think, not only of how they will affect the employer, but how it will affect Grenada in the long run. And that's where it is necessary to sit down and carefully think the demands through before the Federation gives advice or employers give answers to the demands made".

The Grenada Em-

ployers Federation was established on 24th October 1962 when it was officially registered under the Trade Union Act.

GEF had 10 Foundation Members, and the Executive Director said this number has expanded to 55 covering a wide representative cross-section in the commercial, industrial, agricultural and tourism fields.

Representation
"In the essential services field", Mrs Smith said, "our representation covers The Grenada Telephone Company, The Grenada Electricity Company, Cable & Wireless and LIAT Airline".

Mrs Smith joined the Federation as Secretary in 1964, two years after the organisation was established. In 1967, she was appointed Executive Secretary and, in that year, became a Member of the Federation representing her family's agricultural interests.

Retired
A new post of Executive Director was created by the Federation in 1975 and offered to Mrs Smith. She accepted and, in the same year, was elected President of the organisation, a position she was annually re-elected to until 1982.

Mrs Smith foresees "great strides" ahead for the Federation.

Need
"There is a need for greater membership", she said, "and the occasion of our 25th anniversary is being taken to publicise the Federation and the services it gives to employers. Behind us, we have a quarter century of service we can be proud of and, on an even greater scale than before, we are now geared and poised to continue to make our contribution to the industrial wellbeing of Grenada".

END
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UWIDITE'S GRENADA LINK OPENED

TECHNOLOGICAL developments at the University of the West Indies have opened new opportunities for Education in Grenada.

This opinion was expressed on October 5th by Minister of Education Mr George McGuire in an interview with NEWSLETTER on the occasion of the formal inauguration of the Grenada link of the University of The West Indies Distance Teaching Experiment (UWIDITE) Link.

"We can now link up with various campuses of the University of the West Indies (UWI)”, he said, “Many more of our students who would have found it difficult or impossible to go to one of the University campuses will now have an opportunity to sit here and participate in programmes which will lead them towards advanced studies”.

Favourable UWIDITE is the successor of “Project Satellite”, a two month UWI experiment undertaken in 1978. That experiment, the results of which were favourable, linked the Mona, Jamaica campus with students on the University of the West Indies campus in Trinidad.

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Mr Whiteman on October 2nd was signed by GES Manager Mr Gregory Bowen and charged that, as Meter Inspector, Mr Whiteman has exposed the Company to financial loss.

“Your errors have caused the Company not to collect revenue totaling EC$1.6 million, a clear case of incompetence”, Mr Bowen’s letter says, “I am directed to inform you that, effective October 5th 1987, you will be made redundant and should immediately leave the job. All benefits due to you will be computed and paid after one month as per the Union Agreement”.

Reaction

There was reaction to this letter on Monday October 5th when employees at the Power Station and GES Head Office went on an unofficial protest go-slow.

Later in that day the workers representative, the Technical & Allied Workers Union (TAWU) met and the decision was taken to demand Mr Whiteman’s reinstatement.

Union meetings with the GES Management brought no solution to the situation and on Tuesday October 6th, the decision was taken to shut down the Power Station in protest. This action was forestalled by the intervention of the Labour Commissioner, Mr Percival Louison and, in the meantime, in an interview on the same day, Mr Whiteman gave NEWSLETTER his side of the story.

Mr Whiteman said he is 57 years old and gave the information that he has been with the Company 26 years, the last 16 as Meter Inspector. He had no reason to doubt, he says, that there have been discrepancies but it is his opinion that it is improper application of new technology which has resulted in losses for the Company.

Multiplication

The meters used by GES have six digits which have to be read, he said. To get the correct reading, the last digit on the right must be multiplied by 10, he explained and, up to 18 months ago, when the Company made its bills “by hand”, the billing clerks did the necessary multiplication.

According to Mr Whiteman, GES has now installed bill-making computers, and he contends that the errors in billing have occurred because the computers have not been programmed to multiply the last digit by 10.

At a meeting of TAWU with GES management on October 6th, it was decided to withdraw the letter of redundancy and institute an investigation.

Both the Head Office and Power Station were operating normally on October 7th but Mr Whiteman was not yet back on the job.

He was at home awaiting a formal letter of advice from the Company.
The outcome was that funding was obtained from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to carry out a feasibility study to find out whether (and how) distance teaching and "teleconferencing" could contribute to regional education and public service.

That exercise, the Caribbean Regional Communications Study (CARICOST), is the basis on which USAID provided a grant of US$500,000, and UWIDITE was formally launched on March 7th 1983.

Grant
That grant covered salaries and other support for a three-year period and, additionally, USAID gave some US$220,000 for communications costs and funds for technical assistance and training.

A UWI Report published last November indicates that USAID funds are no longer available and there will have to be a revision of the low charges made to users of the system during the experimental period.

There is a great deal of support for UWIDITE, but this has not yet crystallized into cash", the Report says. "UWI has included a sum of $1.5 million Jamaican dollars (US$28 million) over the last two years of the present triennium and, increasingly, users are being required to contribute to the cost of their programmes."

Results
Highlighting the results of the Distance Teaching Experiment, the Report says that in the 30 years between 1954 and 1984, UWI awarded 1009 Certificates of Education to full-time students from 18 countries, an average of 33 per year.

In 1985, the Report says, after only two years with students from six countries...

Cultural Integrity
First, she said, is the fact that she and her husband have seen "Calabash" maintain its high standards for over 20 years. Secondly, the hotel has maintained the cultural integrity of the area. It "did not succumb to chrome, glass and plastic", but maintained the quality of the Westindies.

"The third and most important point", Mrs Harmon said, "is the hospitality. We felt Grenada has been a very good friend of America and visitors to the island would get an unconditional welcome, which is not true everywhere".

Mr Harry Harmon said the hospitality of Grenada as a destination is a large part of the basis on which the "Golden Fork" has been awarded to the hotel. No matter what high standards "Calabash" may have exhibited, he said, if the hotel had been located in an area which could not boast of Grenada's general hospitality, the award would not have been made.

"Calabash and Grenada are tied together", he said, "and Grenada can take a lot of credit for the award. Had Grenada been a place of hostile taxi drivers and an unfriendly population, we would have recommended against the award. All Grenadians should take it as a personal compliment."

Associated
"Calabash" hotel was built about 25 years ago by Mr Brian Thomas. He was associated in the venture with Mr Charles DeGale who eventually assumed ownership of the hotel. Mr Garbutt became the owner of "Calabash" on September 1st 1987.
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participating in UWIDITE, 77 Certificates of Education were awarded (an average of over 38 per year) and there were several more candidates still completing the course.

The Report also indicates the cost effectiveness of UWIDITE.

Estimate
Taking into account an estimate of the cost of study leave and staff replacement, the Report says, it would have cost $7.4 million Jamaican dollars (US$1.3 million) to send those 77 students to the Mona campus as full time students.

"The estimate of costs for the UWIDITE operations for the eighteen month period beginning August 1986 is about $3 million Jamaican dollars (US$545,500)," the Report says, "so that, in principle, the annual savings from this one programme could meet all the recurrent costs of UWIDITE."

Potential
Equipment for the Grenada link of UWIDITE was provided by the United States based Project Hope and, at the official inauguration of the link on October 5th, Dr Robert Burastero, Project Hope Head in Grenada, said the potential for education and training is now multiplied manifold by the link.

Dr Burastero said that, through joint participation in joint training ventures in health care in Jamaica, Barbados, St Lucia and other islands, the association between Project Hope and UWI extends back to the early 1970s.

He referred also to Project Hope's involvement in Grenada when the health services were assisted following the military intervention on October 1983.

Project Hope is proud of its association with UWI, Dr Burastero said, and, through UWIDITE, looks forward to working closely with the UWI medical campuses in Trinidad, Barbados and Jamaica.

Interest - "Project Hope's interest is in health and training health manpower", he said, "but the other avenues are open in other disciplines and there is unlimited potential for exchange of knowledge and information." St Lucia is the hub of the system which works through the international telephone circuits of Cable & Wireless (West Indies) Ltd, the Barbados External Telecommunications Ltd, Jamaica International Telecommunications Co and Trinidad & Tobago External Telecommunications Co.

There is a link between Trinidad and Jamaica via the INTELSAT Flight 4 satellite.

Scrambler
Teleconferencing rooms in the system are equipped with microphones, loud speakers, slow scan television equipment and a telewriter. There are also video playback facilities and each campus site has a scrambler which allows for confidential discussions.

MILESTONES

On the Saturday afternoon of August 1st 1970, the motor vessel "Christena" set out from Bassetterre, St Kitts for the short run to Nevis, immediately to the south.

Designed to carry 150 passengers, "Christena" was flat bottomed and more suitable for river work than the sea, but was overcrowded that day with more than 300 souls going home for the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The sea was calm and the wind moderate but, approaching the narrow channel between St Kitts and Nevis, the ship began to take water over the stern.

Suddenly, "Christena" began to roll and, within a few short minutes sank.

The bodies of 57 persons were identified and 170 are missing. Only 92 survived.
NNP Joins IDU

The New National Party (NNP) of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has been accepted as a member of the International Democrat Union (IDU).

NNP was elected to membership on September 24th at an IDU conference in West Berlin where the party was represented by Dr Keith Mitchell, NNP General Secretary.

Dr Mitchell, who holds the portfolio of Minister of Communications & Works in Mr Blaize's Cabinet, reported to the Government Information Service that the Conference was opened by the West German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl.

Other delegates included Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain, and Prime Minister Edward Seaga of Jamaica.

The conference, which opened on September 23rd, ran until September 27th.

Fire Affects Road Programme

A fire at the Mt. Hartman quarry on September 22nd is having an adverse effect on the road programme.

A spokesman for the Grenada Rock, Asphalt & Concrete Production Ltd said the fire started in the oil boiling section and resulted in the loss of 90 drums of bitumen.

There will be a temporary stoppage in production of hot asphalt mix, the spokesman said and, over the next three to five weeks, it will be necessary to use cold asphalt on road works.

It is reported that the building housing the asphalt plant will have to be replaced together with the boiler and feed lines.

Damage is estimated at between EC$150,000 and EC$200,000.

Twenty-eight New Areas Now Have Electricity

Since 1984, 28 major areas have received electricity through the Rural Electrification Programme.

This was disclosed by Dr Keith Mitchell in reply to a question tabled by Mr Phinsley St Louis in the House of Representatives on September 18th.

Dr Mitchell said the cost of this expansion was EC$1,393,612 and all the funds had been provided by Grenada Electricity Services.

Visitor Arrivals Up

Figures released by the Department of Tourism indicate that, in July, there was a slight increase in the number of visitor arrivals as compared with the same month last year.

According to the release, 6,565 stay-over tourists visited the island in July this year and this represents an increase of 6% over the corresponding figure for July 1986.

In July 1987, 6,493 cruise ship passengers visited Grenada and their spending, together with the spending of the 6,565 stay-over visitors is estimated at EC$7,365,930.

The average length of stay for the stay-over visitors in July was 8.5 days. Of the total, the hotels housed 1,403 of which 504 came from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

As compared with July last year, there was, in July 1987, a decline of 20% in arrivals from CARICOM countries, but there was an increase of nearly 14% of Grenadians resident abroad returning home.

There were 17 cruise ship calls at Grenada during July 1987.
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FRG Wants Full Membership In CDB.

The Federal Republic Of Germany (FRG) is to seek full membership of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

A release issued by the FRG Embassy in Trinidad says that, on September 21st and 22nd, at the third negotiation meeting of the Special Development Fund (SDF), the FDG Government declared its willingness to become a full member of CDB and a contributor to the SDF.

The amount pledged to the Fund is US$26 million.

CDB uses the SDF to make or guarantee loans of high development priority, with longer maturities, longer deferred commencement of payment and lower interest rates than those fixed by the Bank for its ordinary operations.

Grenada Represented at OAS CIECC Meeting


Among persons addressing the meeting was Mr Val McComie, OAS Assistant Secretary General. Born in Trinidad, Mr McComie holds Barbadian citizenship.

Chinese Ambassador Presents Credentials

Non-resident Ambassador to Grenada of the Peoples Republic of China, Mr Lu Zongqing, presented his credentials to Governor General Sir Paul Scoon on October 6th.

The Ambassador paid courtesy calls on Acting Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs, Mr Ben Jones, and other Ministers of Government.

According to a release from the Government Information Service (GIS), Mr Zongqing discussed with Minister of Education & Social Services, Mr George McGuire, the possibility of constructing a 10,000 seat stadium, and the proposal is to be put to a high level Chinese delegation due to visit Grenada in October.

Ambassador Zongqing paid courtesy calls also on the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Venezuelan Ambassador Efrain Silva, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Mr John Leary, and Mr Graeme Roberts, Representative in Grenada of the British High Commission.

Bahamian High Commissioner Presents Letters of Introduction

Mr Livingstone Coakley, non-resident High Commissioner of the Bahamas to Grenada, presented his Letters of Introduction to Prime Minister Herbert Blaize on September 22nd.

PAHO To Fund Regional Workshop

The Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) is to fund a regional workshop to examine the proposal that nursing schools be moved from under Ministries of Health and become a part of tertiary education.

According to the Government Information Service (GIS), the proposal arises from a recommendation of a sub-regional seminar on Health Manpower Development held in Antigua from 28th September to 1st October.

GIS reports that PAHO has agreed also to fund Health Services and Development workshops for health personnel in the Organisation of East Caribbean States.

The first workshop is expected to be held before the end of this year.
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GBCS Represented at ACORBAT Meeting.

Mr Ralph Bholah and Mr Anthony Isaacs, respectively the President and Manager of the Grenada Banana Cooperative Society (GBCS), represented Grenada at the 8th meeting of the Association for Cooperation in Banana Research in Latin America & the Caribbean (ACORBAT) held in Santa Marta, Columbia from 27th September to 2nd October 1987.

The occasion was taken to hold a special session of the International Network for Improvement of Bananas & Plantains (INIBAP), which organisation provides training support and encourages coordination of research on bananas.

In addition to Messrs Bholah and Isaacs, the Windward Islands Banana Industry was represented at the ACORBAT meeting by 16 representatives drawn from the banana marketing associations in Dominica, St Vincent and St Lucia.

Power Says Farewell

Non-resident Canadian High Commissioner to Grenada, Mr Noble Power, completed his final official visit to Grenada on October 9th, just short of four years since he first visited in October 1983.

Mr Power, who initiated several Canadian aid projects to Grenada, was never formally accredited to the island.

Representing a Commonwealth country, in order to establish his accreditation, he was required to present Letters of Introduction to Grenada’s Prime Minister.

When Mr Power first came to Grenada, however, it was immediately following the military intervention of October 25th 1983. There was then no Prime Minister in office and that post was not filled until after the General Elections of December 1984.

Mr Power has been closely associated with Canadian aid projects covering telephones, sewerge, the Cocoa Industry, the Central Garage and the International Airport.

USAID Increases Infrastructure Grant

The US$4 million grant, made by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for infrastructure improvements in Grenada in 1987, has been increased by US$259,000.

According to a USAID release, the original grant, which was signed on March 13th 1987, relates to improvements in the Tourism and Industrial fields, including installation of a sewerage system in the hotel area at Grand Anse and funding for the Frequent Industrial Park.

The amendment, signed on September 28th, provides additional funding for the Frequent Industrial Park which will cover landscaping, provision of toilet facilities, and renovation of buildings housing the Park Centre.

Canadian Aid To Fishing Industry

Twelve fishermen returned to Grenada on October 3rd from a five-week course in Nova Scotia, Canada, and seven other fishermen left on October 4th for a seven week course in Trinidad.

Both courses are sponsored by the Canadian Training Awards Programme and cover a wide range of relevant skills.

Alistter Hughes

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