

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Whither The Associated States ?

The future of the Associated States is unpredictable.

It is unfortunate that the islands thus referred to are poor since there is hardly any real industry from which a viable economy can result. It is true that some of the islands are a little better off than others but they, too, must be placed into the same category.

Notwithstanding the poverty of these islands the affairs of each one must go on; that is to say, that money, the important factor in every business, must be obtained somehow and from somewhere.

There seems to be two common ways by which the required money is obtained. Heavy taxation is imposed on the populace and there is a considerable amount of borrowing or begging from the richer countries of the World. This attitude is not always justified by poverty. In some cases, it follows from gross misuse of funds and the failure to attract and encourage industries. These are but two of the characteristics of the St. Kitts Government.

The Associated States can be likened to a bunch of fruits cast untimely from a tree which suddenly became overburdened and lacking in moisture. However, there is some amount of economic aid coming to these islands yearly, but not really enough to do anything except perhaps to balance the budget of some extravagant or otherwise poor government.

It must be agreed that

Hear This One

Mr. Lee Moore gets \$540 00 a month for doing what most people believe to be nothing. The most Mr. Moore has ever done for this fat sum is to broadcast occasionally over Z.I.Z. and issue a few press releases.

But that is not all. Mr. Moore now has an assistant, Mr. Suswyn Mills, an assistant to do what?

It is a crime, a wicked crime for the government to continue paying people like Lee Moore for doing so little while so many non-establishment workers have been laid off and so many people are starving

these islands were in no way qualified for Associated Status. Of course, nobody expected them to remain Crown Colonies forever, but none was ready economically to be pushed a way. Montserrat realized it and objected.

St. Vincent up to now, is not a state either. The political trouble there sometime ago, might not have been the reason for the delay. What seems to be the real reason up to now, is that the islanders do not want Associated Status for their island.

In contrast to the two islands referred to above, Anguilla and Barbuda do not altogether object to Statehood. What they do not want is to be a part of the States of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and Antigua-Barbuda respectively. This is all because the people of the two islands have no confidence in the governments which immediately after Statehood became completely responsible for internal affairs. What these islands desire is to be states in their own right or Crown Colonies once again. If not, trusteeship under some major democratic World

power.

Truly, one must admit that unity is strength; but there can only be unity when there is sympathy, understanding and goodwill. Integration of the Caribbean islands can be the basis for the development of all the islands. The coming of CARIFTA is a good sign but when one thinks of the political trend in which some of the islands are already being dragged, there is a sigh of melancholy.

The coming of Statehood has opened the way to the abuse of political power and already, there are signs of dictatorships springing up all over the Caribbean. Over the past months, we have seen and heard enough in St. Kitts: and this writer does not have the will to repeat anything.

To conclude, it is not poverty alone that threatens the future of the Associated States. It is the abuse of political power as well. In either case, may God help us all to bear ourselves as we ought to meet the challenge.

ANGUILLAN

Heaven help the Poor

Many people in St. Kitts are now crying out under the pressure and starvation that the Labour Government has imposed upon them.

We the poor people are looking around with pleading eyes for work

to save our poor children from the pangs of hunger.

Could this be part of the plan to have our women prostitute themselves, as was typical prior to and even after the abolition of slavery, in order to be numbered among the privileged few to get work?

Such an idea is repulsive and unforgivable in this day and age.

The Labour Government has proved to be nothing more than blood suckers of the poor.

It is therefore not surprising to hear people who had been blind supporters of labour now say that they are getting their families out of the State before 'dog eat dog' as Mr. Bryant, Minister of Education, Health and Welfare promised just prior to Statehood.

It is indeed criminal for the government to feed over 50 men in its army while children are starving.

A MOTHER

Congrats, Anguillans

Once again you have expressed in no uncertain terms your determination to support the men who came forward to lead your island out of slavery and oppression into one of prosperity, peace and love.

This is indeed a time for stout hearts to increase their armour with greater courage.

It is also a time when those who favoured Bradshaw's regime, whether for purely selfish motives or otherwise, to take a close look at the burden the people of St. Kitts and Nevis are now bearing, the spite and wickedness inflicted on all who refuse to sell their souls. They should

thank God first, and the people after who have freed Anguilla from the yoke of tyranny under which she suffered so patiently and so long.

To the newly elected council of Anguilla I wish a fruitful term of office, and to your dedicated leader Mr. Ronald Webster I wish the protecting wings of Providence to overshadow him at all times.

To all Anguillans I wish continued success and an increase in their determination to see Anguilla a free land, a prosperous land, a gem of the Caribbean.

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