

Thomas O'Laughlin

THE DEMOCRAT

FOR ST. KITTS

1013

SATURDAY, JULY 20 1968

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ANGUILLA AWAY

ANGUILLA has decided to hold General Elections for the Council on the 30th of this month. It appears that at last the British Government will be constrained to deal with a lawfully elected legislature and we hope that a speedy solution of the entire situation will soon be reached. For over a year now we have had an uneasy constitutional relationship between our islands, and Britain has tried to avoid the tremendous public pressures at home and abroad which have agitated for the demands of the Anguillians to be respected.

It is clear that the Government here has no control whatsoever over Anguilla and that the State of Emergency which has been maintained with respect to that island is nothing but an empty threat. What is certain is that Anguilla is developing for the first time in her history. Already there have been decreases in duties on many items including petrol, rum, cigarettes and foreign cars. The air-strip is being pitched and the medical and school services are greatly improved. What is more important is that the people of Anguilla feel a pride in their island in sharp contrast to the deep disappointment felt by all Kittitians at the complete lack of development in St. Kitts over the past years.

It has been reported that Southwell, in his current trip to England, informed the press that he would not let Anguilla go because it was the backbone of the economic development of the State. This seems most amusing when one remembers that up to recently the Government bemoaned "large" sums of money which they said they had to spend on Anguilla and which they alleged was far greater than the revenue derived from that area.

We hope that the Elections in Anguilla go smoothly and that our Government will see some sense and try to negotiate with the new Council rather than try to depend upon the Army, Defence Force and Police who clearly have no stomach for this fight. It is to be regretted that our sister island of Anguilla was forced to secede because of the stupidity of our Government but we look forward to the day when we will once more be able to clasp hands.

Methodism in Action



REV. E. ALPHONSE

Describing what he called Methodism in action, the visiting Methodist Minister from Panama, the Rev. Ephraim Alphonse on Tuesday night painted for a capacity congregation at "Wesley" Methodist Church, Basseterre, an inspiring "word picture".

The picture showed how he yielded to inner urgings from God to surrender his life to Him, how as "an ignorant lad" (as he put it) at the age of twenty he accepted an offer from the Methodist Church to go to the hinterland of Panama to teach the Valiente Indians, and of his work among them.

The complete story of how

he was led all the way "by the finger of God" is told in his book "God at the Helm" which is published in Britain and sells at \$5 a copy, and may be obtained from Rev. Crichton.

Rev. Alphonse, a youthful 72, who was baptised a Roman Catholic (his father was a Catholic and his mother a Methodist) is here until 29 July as the guest preacher at the annual Missionary Meetings of the Methodist Church.

At the "Wesley" meeting held on Monday night under the chairmanship of Mr. Owen Audain, F. R. C. S., the sum of \$4,072.54 was collected (this is not a final figure). Last year's figure was \$3,702.66.

In an interview with *The Democrat* Rev. Alphonse said that his first reaction to the Valiente Indians was one of careful scrutiny. They had been accustomed to be treated as inferiors to civilized people, and they put him to various kinds of tests to see whether he carried that kind of prejudice.

He said they soon discovered that his approach was not to teach, but to learn at their feet, and this gave him a unique place in learning their language and to recognise it not as mere gibberish.

He taught them to appreciate their language as something to be contributed to the culture of the Panamanian people.

He said the Indians worshipped no idols; they believed in the one true God whom they called "Egobe". They believed that He is the maker of all things in heaven and earth, but they did not know of the Son of God.

They believe in dreams which determine their whole outlook on life. To them an evil dream is sure to bring about death. They call such a dream "Hacobotoke".

He said their belief in dreams is evident in their early salutation. To say good morning is to say "how did you dream" — Cobonio — and the reply is "Miantiore" which means "I did not have". And not to have a dream, means that one is well.

Dr. Alphonse spent more than thirty years among the Valiente Indians during which he reduced their language to writing, and the Government of Panama was so impressed with his good work that they conferred on him the highest honour of the land — Vasco Nunez de Balboa — and gave him the Key to the Freedom of the City of Panama.

LIAT aircraft held for 16 hours

Pilot Arrested

Captain Teddy King, a pilot for the Leeward Islands Air Transport (LIAT) was arrested in St. Kitts on Wednesday morning at about 10.30 o'clock and charged with violating a certain section of the Customs Law because he did not await clearance when the plane he piloted called at Golden Rock Airport on Tuesday afternoon.

The plane, a LIAT 748 Avro, piloted by Capt. King, called here at about 5.30 p.m. (Tuesday) while en-

route to Antigua with passengers.

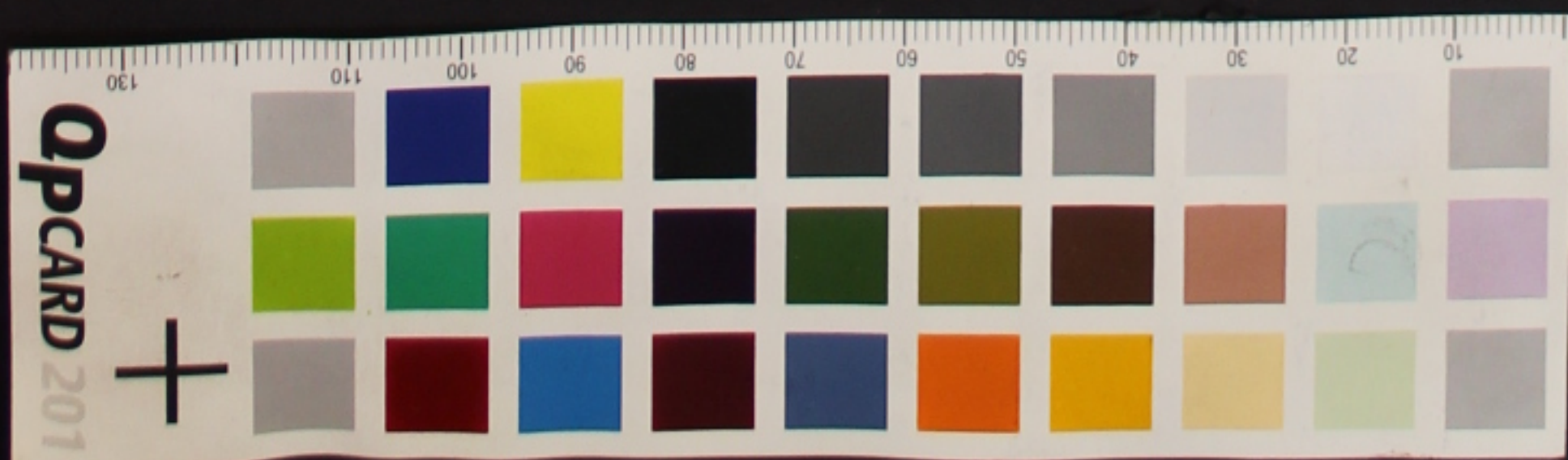
At about 6.30 p.m. it returned to St. Kitts bound for St. Thomas and St. Croix under the command of another pilot, and was immediately impounded by the Customs authorities here and forced to remain at the airport all night until next morning when Captain King came in from Antigua. Its eight passengers were put up at "The Palms" and at "Sea Side Hotel".

Captain King arrived on

Wednesday morning with Mr. Frank Delisle, Managing Director of LIAT, and Mr. Fred Kelsick, Barrister-at-Law and was arrested and charged with committing an offence under section 17 of the Customs Law. He was released on bail in the sum of \$1,000, and LIAT's local agents, Messrs H. F. Wildy & Co. Ltd., stood security for a bond in the sum of \$50,000.

The plane was released at 10 o'clock.

It is understood that Captain King's case will be heard at the Magistrate's Court on 29 July.



In The House of Lords —

ST. KITTS AND ANGUILLA

(Continued from last week)

LORD WILLIS :

My Lords, it seems to me that we have some trump cards in our hands. First of all, we are giving this rather large sum in aid. In relatively normal circumstances it may not be considered large, but we are giving something like a quarter of a million pounds in aid to Anguilla. First, I think we must make noises about that to Mr. Bradshaw, and make them immediately and strongly. Secondly, we should indicate what other measures, we could take by sending a delegate on a very high level to these Islands to intervene and to see what can be done. Thirdly, I do not think it out of place for the British Government to make an announcement and give an assurance that, however the problem between St. Kitts and Anguilla is solved, we will not allow it to be solved by force and that we shall intervene to prevent it being solved by force. That may be outside the agreement or treaty that we have just signed; but nevertheless here are a people who are appealing to us for help, and I think this is an avenue we should explore.

Certainly I think that we should take any steps necessary to prevent any invasion of Anguilla with the bloodshed that might follow pending some kind of settlement; and a settlement that seems between the Anguillans and ourselves would not be practicable because under the West Indies Act 1967, Her Majesty's Government may not split up or join together Associated States except at

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the request and with the consent of the States concerned. That is the position, and we really must abide by legislation which we passed in this House so recently. There is another party to any settlement, as well as the Anguillans and ourselves; that is the St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla Government. We hope that the Anguillans will understand that the legal position of the State Government cannot simply be ignored. Equally I agree with the noble Earl that we must persuade the State Government that a realistic view demands that they come to some accommodation with the Anguillans in order to put an end to a situation which is impeding the progress towards prosperity of St. Kitts and Nevis, as well as that of Anguilla.

THE EARL OF SELKIRK: My Lords, may I ask the noble Lord one question? I understand that it was fundamental to the agreement that local councils would be set up in Anguilla. This was never done. In that sense it might be open to us to say that the agreement was not fulfilled on the side of the Associated Caribbean States.

LORD BESWICK: But the interim settlement was designed to create an atmosphere in which, among other things, a local council would be elected. I quite agree that the council has not been elected. Part of the report which we expect from the man on the spot will, I hope, carry us some distance further towards the election of such a council. It has not been achieved, as yet, but that does not mean to say that before the twelve months is up we should despair that it will be achieved. There are difficulties on both sides. We must consider these sympathetically and try to find a way of overcoming them.

On the State Government's side there is the fact that under the West Indies Act 1967 Anguilla is constitutionally a part of the Associated State and cannot be spilt off, and it is doubtless the consciousness of this constitutional position which has led Mr. Bradshaw to make public statements such as those mentioned by the noble Lord opposite. But, so far as I can, I have checked some of these statements and I must say that it really depends upon how they are presented and the context in which they are placed, as to the impression that they create. For example, when Mr. Bradshaw used those words which were quoted about writing in blood

a solution, they followed on his speculation about the possibility of another attempted invasion from Anguilla. It was only then that he spoke about bloodshed. We hope, of course, that there would be no question of another attempted invasion from the small Anguilla towards the seat of the Federal Government.

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH: My Lords, I think that this is extremely important. Can the noble Lord therefore give an assurance that the Government are satisfied that the undertaking which I mentioned, and which was quoted by the Secretary of State in another place on January 30, still holds good, despite the quite extraordinary remarks made on more than one occasion towards the end of May this year by Mr. Bradshaw?

LORD BESWICK: Yes, my Lords; I am going to mention that. I have only another one or two sentences to say, and I shall mention that. What I was going on to say is that an essential prerequisite to a solution is an atmosphere of calm, in which no grounds are given for and no credence is given to the sort of rumours about invasion and counter-invasion that we have had in the Press.

The noble Lord asked me about the undertakings given by the Secretary of State on January 30 of this year. Those undertakings still hold good; we still expect that the undertakings given by the St. Kitts Government and the Anguillans to refrain from hostile actions against each other also stand. And I am sure that noble Lords will all agree that to act on

any other assumption would be quite impossible. We cannot accept that the Government, on the one hand, and the people of Anguilla, on the other will conduct themselves, or their relations, other than within the undertakings that they have given. And, so far as we are concerned, if they do not abide by their undertakings, for our part we shall abide by ours; namely, those that were given on January 30 by my right honourable friend the Secretary of State.

The noble Lord has voiced, understandably, some anxieties, and I hope to be a reasonable one. We should agree to the Anguilla people's request that they should enjoy independence and get their share of the grant; because it is as true now as it was in the past that the path to true association is not in the artificial putting-together of States but in giving them true independence and true national freedom that they find their own way eventually to association on the basis of true equality. It is quite clear that in the West Indies, in these scattered Islands, it is impossible for countries to be truly economically independent and that some association must come; but it must be an association between equals and not one that is imposed through force by one side or the other. I urge the Government to take the words of the noble Earl very seriously and to act as swiftly and surely in this matter as they would if these were big troubles nearer home.

11.4 p.m.
THE EARL OF SELKIRK: My Lords, we are all in-

debted to the noble Earl, Lord Bessborough, for raising this question and showing the concern that I think we very properly feel in regard to an Island, however distant it may be, with which we have been concerned, one way or another, for some 300 years and whose course of life we have necessarily affected considerably. It has just set out on a new course and we cannot ignore that what is happening is of very considerable importance. We have tried once to set up a Federation in the Caribbean; and that failed. We have now tried a new experiment, the experiment of Associated States. I believe that it is of very great importance that this should succeed, with all the combination that that means—whether it be in education, currency, justice or communications.

If what is now happening to these Islands brings a bad reputation to the Caribbean it will have an adverse effect on the whole area. I think that that is an aspect that we should on no account leave out of consideration. We have an officer in the area and his duty is to help administer and find a long-term solution and to make recommendations both to the United Kingdom Government and to the Government of St. Kitts. In that sense we have a locus to see what is happening. It seems very difficult to know exactly what is happening, and I hope that the Government will be able to tell us something of it. The general picture that one has is that very odd trials are taking place, to which my noble friend has

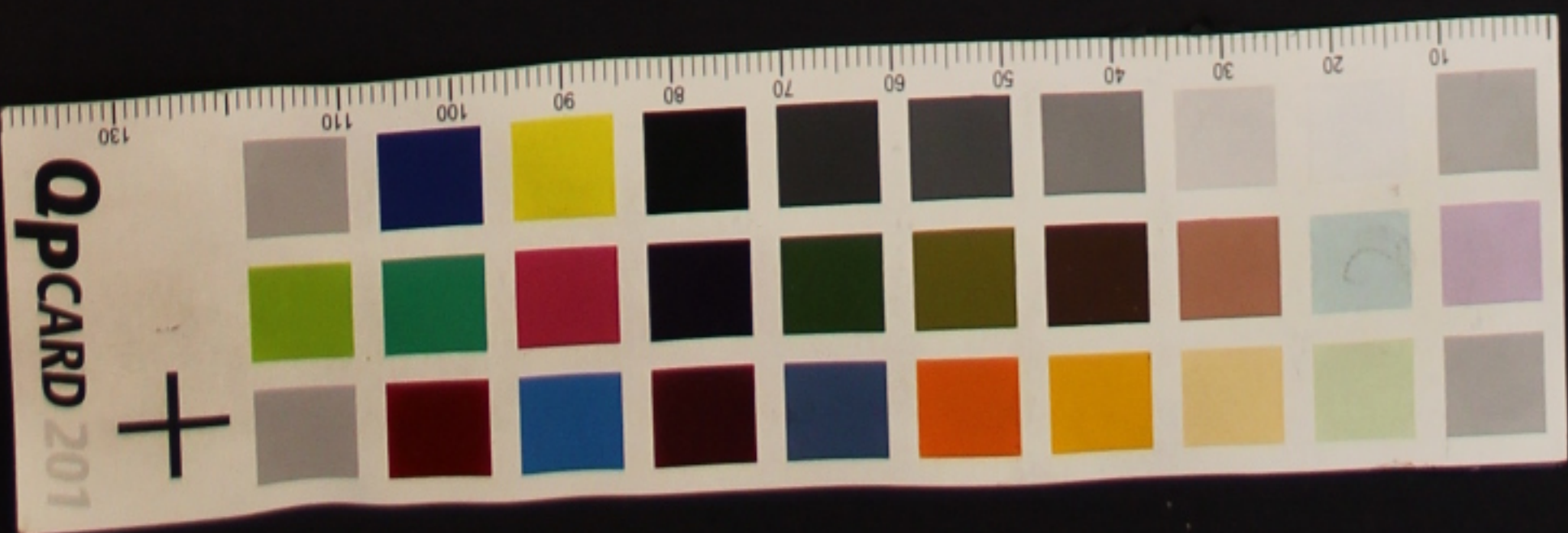
(Continued on Page 8)

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ST. KITTS and ANGUILLA

NOTICE

(Continued from Page 7)

referred, and as I think we still have an appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, this may not be a matter wholly without concern to ourselves.

My Lords, I understand that no mails are getting through to Anguilla, and that medical supplies are not getting through. These are difficult concerns, and what is perhaps even more important, is that one of the fundamental points of association between these two Islands was the appointment of local Councils in Anguilla, St. Kitts and Nevis. At least, so far as Anguilla is concerned, that has never happened, though it was a fundamental point in the agreement. I do not want to underestimate the difficulties in which Her Majesty's Government find themselves. The Act of Parliament under which the Associated States were set up tried to make clear that internal affairs was a matter for those on the spot and not for Her Majesty's Government, and I realise that. From a legalistic point of view we could probably repudiate any form of responsibility, but I think that would be an extremely

dangerous course to take because of the wider repercussions which might well follow.

It is open to us, to take certain drastic action — though I hope it will not be necessary — but it would be wrong to say that there is no course of that character which we could pursue. We could, of course, withdraw association. We are free to do that on our own initiative, according to the Act of Parliament, when we wish to. We could cut aid, and the point of the recognition of the independence of Anguilla is another matter. I hope it will not be necessary to adopt any of these courses, but to avoid having to do so, I am sure that Her Majesty's Government must take some action. Otherwise, they may be forced to adopt one or other of these highly undesirable courses.

My Lords, I am sure Her Majesty's Government are watching the situation — at least I hope they are — and I hope that the noble Lord, Lord Beswick, will indicate how fully informed are the Government about what is happening there, because

it is difficult for us to be informed. I would suggest the possibility of calling a Caribbean conference of the territories in the area who might be willing to form a judgement on what would be the most peaceful and stable way in which the evolution of these islands could take place. I recall that we had a year, extending to the end of this year — which leaves not much more than six months — during which the two territories have agreed not to interfere with each other. If we take longer we may be unable to see how we can help. Six months of the year has elapsed. I hope that the noble Lord, Lord Beswick, will be able to tell us that real progress has been made towards reaching a settlement to which we can look forward and which will bring stability to the area.

(Continued next week)

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In the Estate of ARTHUR WAKEFORD ELLIOT deceased

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands against the estate of ARTHUR WAKEFORD ELLIOT late of Cayon Street in the town of Basseterre in the island of Saint Christopher, deceased, who died on the 21st day of July 1967 and whose will was proved in the Probate Registry of the State of Saint Christopher Nevis Anguilla in the Saint Christopher Circuit on the 23rd day of August 1967 by Hubert Charles Dinzey and Norman Maynard, the Executors therein named, are hereby required to send particulars in writing of their claims or demands to me the undersigned the solicitor for the said Hubert Charles Dinzey and Norman Maynard executors, on or before the 31st day of October 1968 at the undermentioned address after which date the said executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased amongst the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and demands of which I shall then have had notice and the said executors will not be liable for the assets of the said deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands I shall not then have had notice.

Dated this 15th day of July 1968

C. F. HENVILLE

of Chambers, Liverpool Row, Basseterre, St. Christopher

Solicitor for H. C. DINZEY & N. MAYNARD

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