

THE BEACON

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Editor Atlin Harrigan

EDITORIAL. I have before me a copy of the "Labour Spokesman" of November 18th. In it there is an Article by "Patriot" in which he says "The people of St Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla, have always been known to be a happy and friendly people living in peace and harmony with each other" He attributes the break-down of that relationship to the formation of the Peoples Action Movement, two years ago.

I grew up hearing my father say that we were being called "Bobbie Johnnies" by the Kittitians, that Anguillans travelling from Anguilla to St Kitts by boat were searched like foreigners by the customs officers; while Nevisians come and go as they like.

Over a decade ago the present Premier of St Kitts promised to turn Anguilla into a desert, and let us suck salt because we were in opposition to the Labour Government. For years and years we had been neglected. Superficially we might have appeared to be a happy people, but the pot of our grievances was boiling up all that time.

The pot would have boiled over whether P A M had been there or not. The thought of being for ever a colony of St Kitts who had neglected us for so long, with the parent hand of Britain being withdrawn with the coming of Statehood caused us to overboil.

Something had to be done to save our island, we were not politicians, and anyhow, with only one seat in a legislature of ten, politics would not have taken us far. We may not have been politicians, but we had a very high literacy rate of 70%.

Around the time of the London Conference I was writing articles to the Democrat, and I even attacked the P.A.M. for not being more helpful to Anguilla. The first time I met Dr Herbert was after the last general elections. Mr Ronald Webster, Mr John Rogers and myself went to St Kitts on Jan 28th 1967 and appealed to the P A M for help to see that Anguilla got satisfactory local government, threatening to take Anguilla out of the State. Dr Herbert called an immediate General Meeting of the Party, where he told them of Anguilla's determination to get out if not given proper Local Government. The following day we drew up a nine-point plan which was sent to the Chief Minister. His reply was that there were no proposals before his government.

Dr Herbert repeatedly told us that he could never support the idea of Anguilla seceding from the Colony. Even to-day even though he was wrongfully imprisoned, then released, then imprisoned again, and is now on trial at St Kitts, he would still like to see Anguilla remain in the State, because he always said that Anguilla holds the key to the development of the whole State, and he is a patriot. Dr Herbert was the only man who could have kept Anguilla from seceding. If Mr Bradshaw had accepted him as the nominated member of the opposition party, the Anguilla crisis might have been postponed, if not averted. Mr Bradshaw would not accept Dr Herbert as a member of the house, knowing that he would never be a "yes-man". In the face of all this, it is not true to say that P A M has caused the separation of Anguilla from St Kitts.

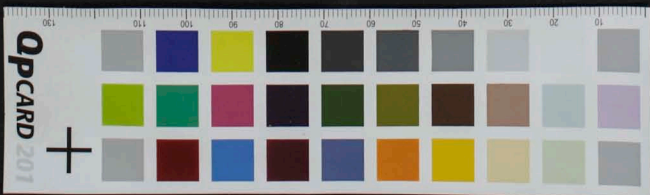
MUSINGS ON FREEDOM. At the Assembly meeting on November 14th, Mr F C Bryant spoke of the demonstrations against the Chief Justice, and said "The people had a right to express their view; it is a very serious right; it is part of their freedom"

But was not a bill passed in the same House of Assembly, taking away those rights from the people, by denying them permission to hold public meetings and to take part in demonstrations, unless with the consent of the police? And who is the head of the police, Mr Bradshaw. Did he give permission for the demonstration against the Judge?

In the cause of freedom, Mr Ronald Webster and I slept in the BUSH for 15 days. 40 police and 200 Marines failed to find us. The Governor and Mr Henry Hall were brought to make contact with us there in the BUSH. We endured this for the sake of freedom. Apparently arrangements were made for the Chief of Police, Mr Lynch Wade to meet Mr Clarence Rogers in the BUSH in the hills of St Thomas, with \$4000 US, to give in exchange for an envelope said to contain a certain map of St Kitts. All that was in Clarence's envelope were some pieces of newspaper. Why further waste the dwindling resources of St Kitts, when Clarence would have been content with \$25?

NOTICE The members of the Council will hold a public meeting in Burrows Park on Sunday November 26th at 4.0pm. This is an important meeting, and as many as possible are asked to attend it.

THANKS to Miss Cecile Gumbs of New York for a donation of \$15.00 for the Beacon to make a start in purchasing a proper Printing Press.



WARNING TO LANDOWNERS. It is generally known that before we took control of our own affairs on May 30th, certain individuals had come to Anguilla from St Kitts, ready to buy Anguillan land, and pay for it into St Kitts Treasury. The danger of our losing our land bit by bit still remains. How many people have borrowed money from the bank and given their deeds of ownership as security? If they fail to repay the money, they will lose their land. In the time to come Anguillans must be on their guard against speculators who may offer terms which seem at the time to be very attractive, but which they might afterwards regret. The public are reminded that Land may not be sold to foreigners without a license from the government. Cases have been brought to our notice that land has changed hand recently in the West End. If our information is correct, the deal may be illegal if the purchaser is a naturalised American subject, even though born in Anguilla.

The Government will give free advice to anyone who asks for it, as our land is the most treasured possession we have, and there are many speculators only too ready to profit by our ignorance.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION. We have been pressing for the appointment of such a commission for some time past, and we are glad to announce to the public, that this commission has now been appointed and consists of the following members. Messrs Alwyn Hodge, Allan Richardson, Lucas Wilson, Emile Gumbs & Christopher Romney.

MAGISTRATE'S COURT. At a meeting of the Council on November 21st a resolution was passed giving the Acting Magistrate power to settle suits with a value up to \$500. Previously the maximum had been \$200.

DEVALUATION. The Government of Anguilla has agreed to the devaluation of the BWI \$. Our reporter interviewed Mr Clifford Rogers, Manager of the Mid Atlantic Bank, at the Anguilla branch and was informed of the consequent new rates of exchange:-
U.S. Dollar. Buying price BIWI \$1.95. Selling price 2.003
Canadian Dollar ,, 1.815 ,, 1.87
Guilder ,, .9898 ,, 1.054

These prices may be slightly altered on advice from Antigua.

Mr Rogers went on to say, that this devaluation will impose a hardship on Anguilla, and we must think seriously about our future. We should start now to build up a sound tourist industry, and are already pushing forward with our hotel plan.

THE BRITISH PRESS. Anguilla has been in the news recently in three important British Newspapers. In the London Times of November 7th, their special correspondent recently in Anguilla reports that he attended a practice of the Anguilla Defence Force, and heard the ancient cannon firing, and would like to think that the boom could be heard 70 miles across the water in St Kitts- the enemy. He reports Mr Wallace Rey as saying "We will take colonial status under Britain, or total independence, but St Kitts- never." Also Mr Collins Hodge, who said "What we really want is to hoist the Union Jack here" The settlement that the majority of the islanders would really like is to have a British Administrator or adviser as soon as possible, release of funds now blocked by St Kitts, provision of minimum running costs, and after a year or two a referendum approved and recognised by Whitehall. Who knows? Anguilla might one day be able to send Old England a small allocation.

In the Daily Telegraph of the same date. "If you don't look it won't be there" appears to be the British Government's guiding principle over the tiny island of Anguilla in the Caribbean. The Commonwealth Office has made two abortive attempts to bring the island and its 6,000 inhabitants back into the St Kitts Nevis Anguilla group, but the islanders remain adamant. Nothing will induce them to return to the fold while Mr Robert Bradshaw, a man of dictatorial ways and flamboyant attitudes remains head of the group. One can almost hear the Commonwealth Office thanking its lucky stars that, under the new constitution granted to the group earlier in the year, it is forbidden to interfere in the groups internal affairs. Meanwhile the islanders are living a fuller and happier life on their own, than as part of an "associated State"

In the Labour Tribune of November 3rd. Mr Peter Ibbotson gives a long and accurate list of Anguillas grievances and her needs, with special reference to roads, hospitals, schools, Electricity and Water. He goes into great detail about the Valley Boys school, and concludes by saying "A completely different spirit is now abroad in Anguilla, now that the secession from St Kitts is an accomplished fact."

ADVERTISEMENTS. There will be a grand dance at the Bambousha Bar at Island Harbour on Saturday November 25th in the evening. Music by St Martin's Band. Admission. \$1.50 per couple. Host. Eager Harrigan.

M/V Phantom Star will cruise round the beautiful island of Anguilla on Dec 26th. Fare per person \$1.50. Refreshments on sale on board. Tickets available from Captain Elridge Webster, Island Harbour from 15th Dec onwards. Don't miss this.

VISITOR. Professor Fisher, our legal adviser will spend Christmas at Anguilla. He and his wife and two sons, Elliott, 15, and Peter, 11, will arrive on Dec 21st and stay till 30th.

