

THE BEACON

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EDITORIAL

July 11th - December 11th 1967

Five months to the day have passed since we declared by an overwhelming majority, 99% that we were, 1. In favour of secession from St Kitts, and 2. In favour of setting up an interim Government.

When, for the first time, on May 30th we sent our four-man delegation to St Kitts, the word "secession" first reached the Government of St Kitts and the outside world.

We know that the reaction of the Premier of St Kitts was a categorical "No". We know that the reaction of the outside world was admiration for the stand of the "little man", mingled with humour at the apparent impossibility of our demands. Even here in Anguilla there were some who thought that we had gone too far. By July 11th, we had convinced ourselves that our aims were not impossible, and that they were the logical outcome of our frustrations in the past.

During the five months between July 11th and December 11th, by our own successful running of our own affairs, we convinced the few waverers on this island, and most of the outside world that we had a strong case for Independence. In the same period, the actions of the St Kitts Government, culminating in the resolution of "No Confidence in the Judiciary", passed by their Assembly on November 14th, convinced the world that that Government were not capable of running their own affairs, let alone those of Anguilla. So the stage was set for the arrival of the Parliamentary Delegation from Britain on Anguilla on December 6th.

When the Delegation arrived, it now seems clear that, while they may not have brought hard and fast proposals in writing, their hope was to get Anguilla to agree to some form of local self-government, stretching the provisions laid down in paragraph 109 of the Constitution, to their utmost extent. It also seems clear that during the week they were here, they realised that the legitimate aspirations of Anguillians could not be satisfied by that.

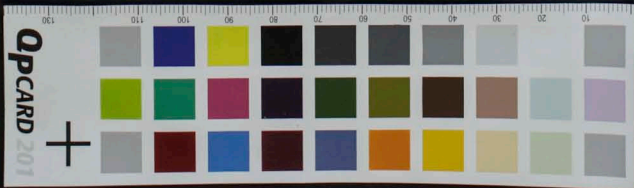
On the morning of December 11th, the Delegation proposed to the Anguillian Council what the British Government finally considered to be a just and workable solution, terms that could be acceptable both to Anguilla and to St Kitts. What those proposals were, we do not know. It took the Delegation four hours to convince the Council that even though they did not go as far as Anguilla might have liked, they were a workable compromise, that had a good chance of being acceptable to both parties in the dispute.

The Anguillian Council therefore accepted them unanimously, and they were taken without delay by Mr Fisher and Mr Chapman to St Kitts. So far, as this goes to the press, four days have passed in St Kitts without any news of any progress reaching us.

If Mr Bradshaw and his Government agree to the proposals, then there is a good chance of Anguilla and St Kitts and Nevis working together in cooperation within the framework of the State, for the good of the State. If they refuse, it will mean that Anguilla may have to continue to go on its own for a little time longer, but this time it will be with the sympathy of the British Government, even though that sympathy can not at present be evidenced by hard cash. When the proposals are published, it will also shew that St Kitts had had the chance to reach an honourable settlement, peace with honour, but turned it down. We leave it to the jury of the world to give its verdict.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE. On December 6th, the Government of Anguilla served notice to Mr Albert Lake, agent for Esso Standard Oil Co, that the containers in Crocus Bay, belonging to the Esso Company would be taken over by the Anguillian Government. Notices to this effect were also sent to the company in Puerto Rico. Prior to secession, the Esso filled the containers each month. After May 30th, the company refused to fill the containers acting on instructions of the Government in St Kitts, in spite of many requests from the Anguillian Government. Because of this we were forced to buy our fuel in drums from other places, which increased the cost of fuel on this island. The Government will now arrange for these containers to be filled, and will sell at cost price to the dealers, who will retail it to the public. This has all been done in accordance with normal international procedure.

GIFT. The very good friend of Anguilla, Mrs Ruth Goodenow is presenting a set of gear for Cricket for the boys, and Soft Ball for the girls in each of the five primary schools of the island. She asks that an adult be responsible for the teams in each of the five schools, so that a junior league be formed, and matches be played for boys and girls between the schools. Thank you very much, Mrs G.



THE TWO FISHERS. While Mr Nigel Fisher was working out the compromise settlement in Anguilla, the other Fisher, Dr Roger Fisher, our Fisher, was pleading Anguilla's cause before the United Nations. Anguilla's affairs occupied the attention of the Fourth Committee for over two hours on December 8th. He concluded by saying "Anguilla does not regard Britain as and evil figure from which the United Nations must protect it. neither, however does Anguilla regard the United Nations as a meddling interloper. Members of the U N have had great experience on the problems with which Anguilla is faced. We would hope that such experience could be usefully applied in this case to the benefit of all. Anguilla hopes that the U N will send a mission to Anguilla to advise the people in respect of their future, so that the door of the U N can be kept open..and that some one will keep an eye on Anguilla. Our second request to the U N is an urgent appeal for some minimal assistance to keep the island functioning. Drugs, a Water Pump. are greatly needed, as well as help for the schools. The hostility of the Government of St Kitts, combined with the position of the United Kingdom, that it would be illegal for any government to assist Anguilla, is causing needless hardship and distress. As a petitioner for the Government of Anguilla, let me thank you on behalf of the people of that island for the opportunity to appear to-day. Anguilla is a small place. But its problems are not small, and they are not unique. Around the world there are islands and islands where dependent people ask, as Anguilla asks " Does a place have to be big to be free"?

GOVERNMENT NOTICE. To all Pilots After discharging passengers and cargo, pilots are requested to move their aircraft off the tarmac in front of the terminal building, to avoid interference with incoming planes and passengers.

THE PRAY R OF THE RELUCTANT PATRIOT.

Dear God...before all men make me a staunch supporter of the right.....
Give me the divine insight that I may know who will win the fight.....
Grant that I be there,when the trumpet blows loud and clear, and on the winning side.
Help me to walk the straight and neutral path, that no man can point me out,
as an open champion of any cause. Let me help in my own clandestine way;
Help the cause that I know in my heart is right. But above all,give me power
to recognise the victorious right.....Let those with not so much to lose
stand forth, a solid front, my shield against the enemy. Let me stand forth, too
in the crowd, unnoticed but present..... Clothe me in a cloak of neutrality, which
I can shed quickly at the right time, that I may step forth in the blaze of victorious
glory, dazzling all men with my true colours.... But, dear God, I beseech thee to
reveal to me those victorious colours while there is still time... The fight is so
crucial, and I have so much to lose..... In the event,dear God, Thou art not
on the winning side, I pledge to go on worshipping thee,in my secret humble way.
My staunch support you will always have, up to a point. . my undying gratitude for
your helping me amass so much from so little, will always be yours. Let us both
await that victorious day when I can step forth before all men, A Patriot of what
is right; 'earless of those who have lost the fight" (For whom the cap fits.)

ADVERTISEMENT A Sacred Christmas Concert in East End School on Thursday Dec 21st
7.30pm, sponsored by S D A Church. Front seats 75c, back seats 50c.
Come and enjoy yourselves, it will certainly be worth your money.. Tickets on sale
or pay at the door.

A Grand dance To be held at the Bamboushay on Saturday Dec 16th. Admission price
Gents \$1, Ladies Free. Music by the Blue Diamond Steel Band. Eager Harrigan.
Stamps I will pay a good price for these three Independent Anguilla stamps, to com-
plete set for exhibition. \$1. 60c. 50c. contact Dr Stephens,Basseterre,St Kitts.

THANKS. Mrs Josephine Harrigan wishes to thank Dr Hyde and the staff of the Cottage
Hospital for their kindness during her recent illness.

CORRESPONDENCE. The Revd Leonard Carty writes to congratulate us on the BEACON,
especially for the "Message to Robert Bradshaw". He says that his church would re-
lease him to work in Anguilla,once a settlement had been reached, but he doubts if
he has talent for administrative work. He concludes "Hold on,pray that Great
Britain may see that it is impossible for us to go back to St Kitts. they must see
this now, the happenings at St Kitts clearly define this.

From Art Finger of San Francisco group. "Glad to hear of John Webster's return to
work at Anguilla. Perhaps he is the first,or one of the fist of many Anguillans,who
will be able to return home at no ^{great} financial loss, and apply the lessons learnt on
the outside to the betterment of their country. When next we meet,I will show you the
huge correspondence file I am accumulating. A month or so ago the National Magazine,
called T V Guide ran a sarcastic feature on Anguilla. I wrote a hot protest, and have
been arguing by mail with the writer and managing Editor ever since"

ANGUILLA COUNCIL. It is proposed in future numbers to publish a precis of the Council
Minutes, so that the public may know what their council is doing.
Town and Country Planning, to ensure that speculators are not given access to our
island, and regulations about sale of land... Income Tax commission... Cooperative
market, to organise an island consortium of all retail stores in order to lower
the food prices on the island.

