



# BEACON

An Independent Anguillian News-Sheet.

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**EDITORIAL.** In last week's issue of the BEACON, the Editor called upon the Council to hold Elections. This week the BEACON goes a little further to explain its reasons. The Editor admits that there has been some criticism. Some people think that this is an opportunity to get rid of the Honourable Ronald Webster from his present possession, or even to change the Council. The Editor would like to make it clear that the BEACON is confident that if elections are held, Mr Ronald Webster would continue in his present post as Chief Executive of Anguilla, as long as he continues to serve the people as he is doing. The BEACON would go out on the limb to support him and at least four other members of his present Council, and also has every reason to believe that the Electorate would keep them there. The BEACON would name without fear those whom it would not endorse.

Some people seem to think that because of the Interim Agreement, it will all be smooth running for Anguilla from now on. This is a very grave mistake; but perhaps the people of Anguilla can not be blamed for thinking it. The reason for this is that the people are not up to date with Government Policy. They do not know what goes on at Council Meetings; and up to now, in spite of many requests we can not get from the Government the minutes of their meetings.

The BEACON therefore suggests that Council meetings be open to the general public, and encourages all Anguillians to take an active interest in these matters. Every one knows that there are times when the Government has matters for discussion which it would not be advisable to make public. Such matters could be dealt with in Committee, when the public would be excluded. But we insist that all proposed legislation be made known to the public before it becomes law. The BEACON further asks that the Minutes of the Council should be available for publication. The BEACON is not satisfied that the information supplied to it by the Council really represents what the Council is doing, and asks that the public be taken more into the Council's confidence.

Those who think that the biggest battle is behind us, are asked to study carefully the two letters, the one from the Council and others to Lord Shepherd, and the other, Lord Shepherd's reply printed in our issue of Jan. 20th. The two letters vary much. We asked that the interim period might be shortened or lengthened by mutual agreement: Lord Shepherd replied that "He reserves the right to withdraw Mr Lee's services at any time it seems advisable". We asked that H M G would accept the validity of actions taken by the Council that had the approval of the British Senior Official. This was not mentioned in Lord Shepherd's reply, who merely stated that "This agreement in no way prejudices H.M.G.'s legal position, and does not constitute any recognition by H M G of any change in the status of the island as designated by Parliament".

The BEACON therefore considers that should the Council take any ill advised action that was contrary to the advice of Mr Lee, the carefully balanced agreement might be wrecked, and we would be back where we were before. This will tell you that the biggest battle is yet to be fought, and the time may be shorter than we think. We must show that we are capable of remaining independent, not only by our actions democratically and constitutionally carried out, but also by the wisdom of our economic arrangements.

We should also add that it is the known wish of H.M.G that these elections should be held, and that the Council assured the Parliamentary Delegation that they would hold them.

We have therefore got a long way to go; the more people that are involved in decision making the better; the more people that are informed the better. So that when the Government asks for the approval of the people for their actions, the people will know what they are asked to approve of. Most people agree that the membership of the Council should be increased, but many consider that it is sufficient to nominate them. (Did not Anguillians all protest against nominated members of a Council a year ago when it was suggested by St Kitts?)

In enlarging the Council, the BEACON would not agree that the places be filled by Nomination. It would then mean that four of a nine man Council would have been nominated. The BEACON feels that the people should have the opportunity of electing them. Some people feel that we should have a bye election for new members only, but what district would they represent?

If we were to show our desire for democracy, the people should have the opportunity to hold elections now. The BEACON will always publish the truth, whether people like it or not.

We understand that there will be a public meeting on this matter next Sunday afternoon.

THANKS Mr George Harrigan and family wish to thank Dr Hyde and the Staff of the Cottage Hospital for their kindness to him there during his recent illness.



**DISMISSAL.** It is with much regret that we learn that Mr Frank MacDonald will not be with us any longer. Dr Fisher gave us the benefit of his services for a period of six months from Nov: 1st to help and advise the Council on their day to day business. Mr MacDonald's salary was not paid by Anguilla. Frank did notable service to Anguilla especially in preparing for the visit of the Parliamentary Delegation. It was largely due to his help in preparing a Balance sheet and supplying other information, that the Delegation was so impressed that they revised the plans for Anguilla they had come with, and produced the interim settlement which we now enjoy. Mr Mac Donald's advice has also been most valuable in dealing with shady characters who have been coming in trying to make what they can out of Anguilla. It is reported that at the last meeting of the Council a letter signed by the Chairman was read out, to the effect that Mr MacDonald's services were no longer required, and in the same letter Mr Roger Fisher was also told that his services also ( except on very special occasions) would be no longer required. The Editor would like to know who will represent us abroad and help us on our day to day business.

**INFLATION.** Anguilla is now faced with Inflation. This trend if allowed to continue could lead to economic stagnation. Because of devaluation, the consumers are the victims of rocketing prices. The sellers have seized the opportunity to make as much profit as they possibly can at the expense of the helpless consumer. The time is ripe for the Government to take action to stop this rot. I am not trying to dictate Government Policy, but would suggest possible lines of action.

1. The Government could control prices. The burden imposed by devaluation could be borne by seller and consumer alike. A good policy would be to allow the Seller to bear half the burden, and the Consumer the other half. Presently the Seller has put all the burden on the Consumer.

2. The Government could make the Seller bear all the burden, and allow price increases only under the following circumstances. (a) where the cost to the Seller is so great that he can not absorb it all. (b) where the Seller can not restrain cost increases and can not absorb them.

3. The Government can subsidise the Seller, making it unnecessary for the Seller to increase prices at all.

4. The Government can increase wages. This would cushion the price increases so that the consumer would not feel the pinch. Care must be taken that such increase in wages does not lead to further increases in prices.

5. The Government can freeze both prices and wages, allowing increases in wages only to the lowest paid workers.

6. The Government can impose a profits tax. This would discourage the seller from increasing his prices.

7. The Government can discourage trade with the Dollar area, and encourage it in the Sterling area.

Space does not permit me to enlarge on these matters. The Government must be careful not to kill the Goose that lays the golden eggs, Investments. And also must see that the Consumer is not exploited. Colville L Petty.

**ADVERTISEMENTS**

Grand Dance on Saturday Feb 3rd at the "Blue Caribe. Gentlemen are requested to wear jackets. Also For Rent The Blue Caribe Restuarant and Bar. Apply Blue Caribe.

Grand Dance At Tropical Flower on Saturday Feb: 3rd. Music by the Hideaway Band Admission Gents \$1.00 Accompanying Ladies, Free.

Seventh Day Adventists. 1. Mount Fortune East End Mr Campbell Fleming Elder.

2. Quarter. Mr Collins Hodge, Leader.

3. South Hill. Mr Enesio Carty, Leader. 4. Long Bay. Mr Samuel Fleming, Leader.

Services are held at the following times:-

Saturday. Sabbath School 9.30am. Divine Service 11.0am Young Peoples Meeting 4.0pm

Sunday Night. Evangelistic Services 7.30pm

Wednesday. Missionary Prayer Meeting 7.30pm

The Public is welcome. J H Pundras. Pastor

**MORE FOR THE ALPHABET.** A contribution arrived too late for last issue appear ?

S are our Stamps, but the QUEEN is not there: Will John KING restore her when others

W's Webster. Our Ronald's no fool: Once he's made up his mind he's as tough as a mule.

X is the cross, when we all followed suit: HATS off for Anguilla; give Bradshaw the BOOT

Y is our Youth. Our future lies there. Long and thin is our island, at least they are square.

Z is for Zilpus, He's built a new Store. Will the Millicent sail, and leave him on shore?

**CONSIDERATION.**

Some day ago I took from the shelf

Tis clear, we all know

A Book stating History repeats itself.

There'll be a final blow.

Once East end men drove back the French

So when they see him on the bench

Now their grandsons haven given poor Bobby

They will find him in a trench. L Gumbs

**DO YOU KNOW** that P W D has Bulldozers that can be rented for various jobs?

At present they are digging Cistern Holes down at Rendezvous Hotel.

