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THE BEACON

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EDITORIAL. An open letter to Lord Shepherd.

Two months have passed since Anguilla accepted the interim agreement, and with the presence of Mr Tony Lee on the island, we realise that there is no longer a danger of overt hostile action being taken against us, and life is returning to normal. We are also grateful for the recent visit of the Overseas Development Team to ascertain our needs, but realise that this was left so late in the financial year, that it will be too late to start work here, on the promises of the old grant, and ask that there may be a fresh allocation for the coming financial year.

In other respects there has been no alleviation of our difficulties. The savings of many hundreds of Anguillians are still frozen in the Treasury of St Kitts, and this is causing an ever increasing hardship. We are satisfied that the money involved is safely invested in Britain, and that the ledgers are in the safe keeping of the Bank in Anguilla. There may be legal difficulties of which we are not aware, but we are of the impression that the St Kitts Government will not take any action to resolve the deadlock. Can not the Manager of the Bank in Anguilla or the Government Treasury in Anguilla be authorised to pay out this money immediately from a loan from your Government?

Further, the share of the U.K grant which should have come to Anguilla last year never reached us, and knowing that the Government in St Kitts had to introduce supplementary estimate a few months back, it is unlikely that they still have any monies set aside for the use of Anguilla. Without this grant we were only able to balance our budget last year by extensive borrowing, and so pay the salaries of our Civil Servants. We are therefore afraid that unless arrangements can be made in London whereby Anguilla's share in the grant be paid direct to Anguilla the same situation will continue and be aggravated. We also realise that it is not easy for St Kitts to decide what is the allocation for Anguilla as they have to take into account what income they could have expected to receive from under the old conditions, before arriving at a final figure. Even with good will on both sides, this might take some time, but without good will a decision might be delayed indefinitely. We therefore ask your Government to grant Anguilla a loan to tide us over till an amicable solution is reached, which loan would be adjusted against the block grant made to St Kitts.

Mr Tony Lee is here in Anguilla (in the words of your letter of Jan; 16th 1968) "to assist with the administration of Anguilla, with the object of working towards an agreed long-term solution for the island! Both these objectives are being hindered by the delay in settling these eight-months old grievances.

CORRESPONDENCE To Editor of the BEACON. Sir, It is certainly heart warming to see Democracy in action right here on our little island. Anguilla is well on the way. Under St Kitts we had the framework and appearance of Democracy, but little else. Anguilla can become a bastion against Communism, but she must build it herself, and seek constantly to protect it. Old man Plato once said "The penalty good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men" Anguilla has found this out, and has done something about it. Now the world is watching our progress with great interest. To sell our product we must advertise: we must present our thoughts and aspirations.

A great deal can be done in our Council to let the world know what we are doing, and intend to do. Anguillians, too, will show more interest if they are a more integral part of civic life. Whenever any major issue is discussed in its final stages before the passing of legislation by the Council, such meetings should be open to the public. The man on the street wants to feel that he has the right to sit in on any meetings where his very destiny is weighed.

There is a time and place for everything. John Public should be present when any matter is being discussed upon which legislation is imminent, BUT he should not be there necessarily when ideas are being tossed out for general discussion and evaluation. This boils down to stating that more work should be done in Committee, and not so much in Council. When an idea has been crystallised into a clear cut issue upon which legislation is pending, only then should it go before the Council for final appraisal where all ears can hear.

In the Congress of the U S A and in Parliament itself, one can see great balconies of seats, placed above and away from the Legislators. These august bodies are not doing business in discarded cinema halls. Those seats have a purpose. Those seats are for the Press and the Public. Lewis S Haskins. Expan. Anguilla

Sir. Being a Beacon myself, I certainly appreciate your valuable weekly paper, and look forward to it with eagerness. I advise all my countrymen to see the good in it and be wise in time. Should the light of the Beacon be extinguished, Anguillians' doom would be sealed. Brother George A Gumbs (Prophet) North Side



A BIGGER BEACON ?? We are glad to announce to all our readers that this week an Off Set Printing Press is being purchased, which will enable us to print a bigger if not a better paper. The Machine will be bought by money loaned to us by the Anguilla Improvement Association in New Jersey, U.S.A. On the 13th of this month Mr Cardigan Hodge left for New Jersey, where he will learn about the operation and maintenance of this press. It is also arranged for him to visit a Newspaper office there, and so learn more of the business of producing a paper. He hopes to be away for two weeks. The press will be shipped to Anguilla as soon as he can operate it.

This whole plan was finalized on Feb 10th when Mr Austin Gumbs, the President of the Association paid a flying visit to the island and met the Editor. The BEACON is very grateful to Mr Gumbs and all the members of the Association for making this loan available.

VISITORS FROM ONTARIO. Earlier this month we had a four hour visit from a very interesting group of Canadians. They were George Mason Dept of Education, Dirk Freckleton Public Relations Officer, John Labbat Businessman, Archie Carnaliam Supt of Social Services Maryon Talbot also from P R O and a freelance photographer from the Toronto Star. They were accompanied by Cyril Romney, Executive Secretary to Chief Minister in Tortola. They accompanied two shipments of supplies for Tortola Schools, and it is reported that some of the supplies were ear marked for Anguilla. We print below an open letter to all Anguillians which this team sent us after they had visited us.

"During a four hour visit to Anguilla, members of the Ontario Department of Education met with Mr Ronald Webster who quickly arranged for our party to tour two of your schools. Plans were well advanced to "twin" Anguillan Schools with Ontario Schools, and I am confident this will make social studies more interesting for your students as well as producing some material benefits for your schools.

On behalf of Ontario's Minister of Education, The Hon. William G Davis, please accept our gratitude for the warm hospitality you extended to us. It is hoped that the Ontario flag left on Anguilla as a gift from the children of Ontario to the children of Anguilla will be a constant reminder of the ties that bind us together.

Yours sincerely,

George J Mason. Co-ordinator Project School to School.

ADVERTISEMENTS Bottled Gas Same old price since 1960. Large Tank \$25, Small tank \$6 Best Buy from Trinidad to Miami. Four Burner Stove and Oven, automatic heat control for \$300.00 cash installed with 100 lbs of gas. Nobody can beat this. Expan
See Collins Hodge, our Man about town.

Galaxy Shoppe & Furniture Store, with branch at th Valley presents another of its Month-End Sales From Feb: 24th to March 2nd 1968. Among other things you will find are Ladies & Girls Shoes as low as \$5.00 per pair. Gents' dress pants, formerly \$9.50 reduced to \$5.00 per pair. Dress Materials, beautiful patterns 75 cents a yard
SHOP EARLY SUPPLIES LIMITED.

Grand Dance at the Tropical Flower on Sat: night Feb 24th. Gents \$1.00 ; Ladies 50c Music by the Diamond Steel Band.

Liquor Licence Take notice that it is my intention to apply to the Magistrate district D, Anguilla on April 2nd for a Liquor Licence in respect of my business place at North Side Anguilla. Cuthbert Gumbs

Beer Licence Take notice that it is my intention to apply to Magistrate, District D for a beer licence in respect of my business place at South Hill. James A Gumbs

For the best in relaxation spend your vacation at Camora Hotel on South Hill, Anguilla Free transportation to and from the beaches only 5 mts away.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE Notice is hereby served that from Feb: 22nd 1968, Pier Dues will be collected by the Customs Officer at Blowing Point, as is done at other ports. The Cooperation of all is expected. Walter Hodge. Treasurer to the Council

THANKS. Through this medium we would like to those of our sisters our sincere thanks to all who helped during our father's illness; and also to the many well wishers and friends and relatives who have extended to us their condolences in our recent bereavement. Kenneth & Evan Gumbs. Slough, Bucks

R.I.P Mrs Sarah Elizabeth Hodge was laid to rest on Monday Feb: 19th, at the age of 86 years, the service was conducted by the Rector, Canon Carleton. She leaves behind to mourn her loss Alwyn Hodge (ex-teacher) Constantine Hodge (Ex Teacher of St 'bits) and Stephanie Hodge on the Staff of the Valley Girls' school. She was a very devout Christian and a great worker in the church and an example for all in the community. To the Bereaved family we tender our sympathy.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING. Services in St Mary's Church on Sunday Feb 25th.

9.15 Sung Mass. Preacher the Rector.

7.15 pm Evensong, Preacher Revd Roy Whyte, who will bring with him his congregation from the Methodist Church.

POPPY DAY. The sum of \$ 112.15 was sent to Archdeacon Walker, -collected in Anguilla in November.

