

THE PARTY YOU CAN TRUST

**MANIFESTO**  
**OF THE**  
**BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY**

**GENERAL ELECTIONS 1971**

PRESENTS A PROGRAMME FOR THE 70's

## THE MAN WITH THE TEAM



*Chairman and Political Leader of the Barbados Labour Party*

HAROLD BERNARD ST. JOHN, Q.C.

## PREFACE

### TIME FOR DECISION

The people of Barbados in this election, our first since independence, must face a most critical decision. Throughout the Caribbean there is a wave of unrest and dissatisfaction. Barbados is no exception. We have always prided ourselves and boasted about our honest Government, our superior system of Education, our great sense of social justice.

Ten years of D.L.P. rule has, however, introduced into Barbados new standards of dishonesty in Government, new standards of gross wastage of tax payers' money, new standards of inefficient educational policy, new standards in the form of an elite consisting of a small group of manipulators and go-between men whose only aim in life is to utilise personal association with Ministers to further and advance their economic interests.

The country is fed up with the distortions of our standards, the broken promises, the sloppy planning, and the inability to face the challenges of the young in society. After ten years of D.L.P. rule, the old, the poor, and the handicapped are still not receiving just treatment; the young are unguided; unemployment is still rife; the economy is sagging and the cost of living is soaring. We of the Barbados Labour Party are convinced that there must be a change. No government which has misled a country as the D.L.P. has misled Barbados should be re-elected to office.

The proposals contained in this Manifesto, we believe, are what are needed to restore confidence in the leadership of this country to stimulate and reorganise economic activity; to provide for a just distribution of the fruits of that economic activity, and to provide that measures of necessary solace to the aged and handicapped and new hope for the unemployed.

We appeal to the electorate in this election to endorse our policy by giving us a substantial majority of Parliamentary members so that we can get on with the business of restoring good and decent government in Barbados.

It is in this spirit that we present you with our Manifesto, platform, and our programme.

BERNARD ST. JOHN



# MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT

The party is convinced that there is a need for complete re-allocation of portfolios and redistribution of the work load among ministries.

The Party is fortunate that its members and potential ministers are men of experience, ability, and are equipped to execute its policies. It will therefore undertake a reallocation with a view to ensuring:-

1. Elimination of unnecessary ministries.
2. Better distribution of responsibility between ministries.
3. Grouping of similar and related subjects under the ministries.

These measures will have the effect of providing better control, better supervision, and better co-ordination.

## CIVIL SERVICE

However competent, however good, however well distributed Ministries are, without a properly trained and adequate staff and contented Civil Servants, no Government can execute its plans effectively. The Party is convinced that there is an urgent need for reformation of the Civil Service and the Public Service Commission.

The Party pledges itself to institute this reformation. It will therefore immediately appoint a full time Chairman to the Public Service Commission, immediately investigate job categories in the Civil Service, and immediately review pension legislation. All of these measures will be undertaken after full consultation with the Unions representing the Civil Service.

## STATUTORY BOARDS

The B.L.P. has always been pledged to the concept of appointing to Statutory Boards people of talent, honesty, and ability to carry out the policy of the Party. Since 1961 there has been a fantastic multiplication of Statutory Boards. These have been used by Government to reward the D.L.P. party faithful without reference to ability or competence or suitability. The Party pledges a re-examination of the role and function of the Statutory Boards and the establishment of new guide lines of operation.

## GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE

Since the abolition of local government the Barbados Labour Party has seen a great gulf develop between the governed and the governors. The Party will re-establish a genuinely representative principle so that in matters touching the everyday life of local communities, their citizens and amenities, the voice of the local man will again be heard.

# ECONOMIC POLICY

The broad economic policy of the Party will be to strengthen the base of the economy of Barbados to provide greater participation by the people in ownership of the national assets, to provide greater employment opportunities and a minimum standard of living; and to improve productivity in various sectors. Most of the growth in the economy of Barbados in the last ten years has come about by the sound foundation laid by the B.L.P. when in office. The Party is seriously concerned over the neglect in the agricultural sector, the lack of planning in the tourist sector, the indifference to fisheries, the abuses in industrial development. The Party is convinced that a serious effort must be made immediately to provide the proper balance in development in these various sectors, and throughout this manifesto, detailed measures which the party intends to implement with a view to these, will be set out.

## FINANCE AND BUDGETARY POLICY

The Party Pledges to implement.

1. New budgetary procedure which will allow specific days for debate of budgetary proposals.
2. Discontinuance of habits of over estimating expenditure, and under estimating revenue.
3. Special attention to revenue departments, especially Customs, with a view to ensuring that legitimate revenue is raised.
4. Creation of new grades in the Civil Service, providing for a lucrative career to departmental accountants.
5. Review of organisation and methods of the commercial operations in Government.

## TAXATION POLICY

The Barbados Labour Party is very concerned over the present distribution of the tax burden in Barbados. A look at the present sources of revenue indicates that only a comparatively small burden is carried by owners of real estate, while consumers and income taxpayers, even with recent concessions, have to share a very onerous load. National Income has not doubled since the Independence of Barbados but Income Taxpayers are paying  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as much as in 1966. Customs and import duties also place a heavy strain on consumers' pockets. The Party will seek a rationalisation of land taxation at all levels, using taxation policy not only to serve the revenue but to control unlimited speculation in land values.



## BANKING AND MONETARY POLICY

The Democratic Labour Party can truly be called the foreign bankers' party. It has amended the Rate of Interest Act so as to permit only Banks and a few privileged financial institutions to charge more than the 8% rate of interest, the previous upper limit. This has seriously distorted the whole money market of Barbados and the Party believes that the present difficulty in obtaining mortgages is a direct result of the Banks' stranglehold on available funds. This clearly gives rise to an urgent need for official regulation of the Banking and Monetary system.

The Barbados Labour Party pledges the following specific measures to deal with this situation.

1. The enlargement of the Government Savings Bank to provide a true national bank operating commercially.
2. The ensurance of true competition for deposits.
3. Public participation in ownership of banking institutions and insurance companies.
4. The continuance of a common currency in the Eastern Caribbean.
5. The immediate passing of a truth in lending rate of interest bill.

## TRADE POLICY, DISTRIBUTION AND THE COST OF LIVING

On the lips of every Barbadian is the phenomenal rise in the cost of living that takes place annually. Every item in every supermarket or shop is subject to constant rise in price, not always because of an increase in overseas cost.

The Party's policy on trade and distribution will include:

1. Complete reorganisation of the Barbados Marketing Corporation and a strengthening of the Prices Commission.
2. Improvement of home production, both agricultural and industrial, where this can be done on a competitive basis.
3. Looking for sources of supply from other than traditional high cost areas.
4. Direct importation by government, on a competitive basis of certain essential items.
5. Constant reviews of the mark-ups and profit margins of commercial importers.
6. The encouragement of consumer co-operatives.

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND INTER CARIBBEAN RELATIONS

No greater public fraud has ever been committed by a political party against the people it represents than by the D.L.P. in its estimation of the cost of external representation for Barbados. It is solemnly informed the public that external representation would cost the taxpayers only \$500,000 annually. The following figures are what the actual costs have been:

1966-67 \$504,967 (only 4 months of Independence.)

1967-68 \$1,969,274 (the first full year of Independence).

1968-69 \$1,775,722

1969-70 \$2,352,707

1970-71 \$3,056,835

Estimated expenditure for 1971-72 is \$3,618,313.

We in the B.L.P. cannot believe that foreign representation is more important to Barbados than housing or the development of new secondary schools for which less than \$1 million has been allocated in total for the last three years.

It is therefore positively clear that a thorough re-examination of the role of Barbados in world affairs, the cost of our external relations, and its usefulness must be undertaken. The Party is convinced that Barbados' external relation policy should be guided by the following considerations:-

1. The need to promote the trade interests of Barbados.
2. The need to publicise Barbados abroad with a view to attracting capital development as well as tourist expansion.
3. The need for Barbados to keep to a minimum the cost of its external relations.
4. The need for Barbados actively to pursue with other Governments of the Caribbean area a common external policy so that wherever appropriate the West Indies as a whole are promoted.

The Party re-affirms its belief that the Caribbean territories will never fulfil their true role in the world, nor their people achieve their true economic, social and political destiny until there is established adequate machinery to deal with common problems and to handle economic and political development on a regional basis. In the implementation of the above, the Party pledges that it will continue to support and to enhance any regional association and institutions of which it is already a member, and in particular CARIFTA.



## TOURISM

The B.L.P. has an honourable record in providing the impetus for Tourist development in Barbados. It created the Tourist Board, instituted the Hoteliers' Legislation and, what is more important, from the very outset of tourism in Barbados, it made it clear to tourist and public alike that tourism was an industry which had to exist as the servant of the people of Barbados and not the people of Barbados being servants to the tourist industry.

In the last ten years there has been a great rise in the number of tourists coming to Barbados. However, because of the lack of foresight and planning, on the part of the government, a crisis has virtually arisen in the tourist industry, in which hotel operators are dissatisfied with conditions in the industry; workers are dissatisfied with their wages, their treatment, and their lack of security of tenure; and the tourists are dissatisfied with the high charges.

Summer trade is too slight in relation to room capacity, and staff are laid off.

The B.L.P. feels that the time has come for urgent measures to be taken, and therefore proposes the following:-

1. The immediate strengthening of the staff in the Ministry of Tourism, so as to have available to Government special advice at Ministerial Level. At the present time a profound lack of technical staff makes it impossible for the Minister to receive good and objective advice.
2. A comprehensive survey of the industry as a whole.
3. The concentration of more promotion to expand markets for the summer trade.
4. The creation of more national scholarships for the training of Barbadians to take positions at all levels in the industry.
5. The institution of measures to ensure the finance for carrying out these objectives will be obtained from the industry itself.
6. The attraction of Convention facilities to Barbados, this being the service whose lack is most felt at present.
7. The creation of more national parks and other centres of attraction.
8. The preservation of our national tourist assets, such as the beaches and the unbuilt land and seascapes in selected areas.

## AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

### 10 Years Of Neglect

#### AGRICULTURE

1961 - 1971 will go down as the decade of neglect of Barbados' agriculture by a Government shamefully unaware of the problems and uninterested in their solution.

The Barbados Labour Party does not intend to allow the rundown of Agriculture to go one step further, and its programme will be directed towards greater diversity securing the fullest and most effective use of all lands, improving the economy of the rural areas, raising the standard of living of the rural population and keeping the cost of living down by exercising a measure of control over the prices of basic foods consumed. To this end we intend to:-

1. Revitalise the Barbados Marketing Corporation so that it gives proper attention to the marketing of local foodstuffs and provides an assured market for farmers' produce at reasonable prices to growers.
2. Introduce and intensify agricultural education at all levels of the education system. To this end the policies of the Ministries of Education and Agriculture will be closely correlated.
3. Intensify the research activities of the Ministry of Agriculture with special emphasis on the crops produced for local consumption.
4. Improve the organisation and efficiency of the extension services for effective execution of the programme. The 4-H Clubs will be an important factor in this exercise.
5. Develop the use of irrigation, especially among small producers in vegetable farming. Extensive use of the well-drinking unit of the Water Works Department will be made in sinking irrigation wells. These wells will be owned and operated by government for servicing farms in their areas.

#### SUGAR INDUSTRY

The Barbados Labour Party recognises that sugar is still a large financial contributor to the resources of the country and will advocate a rationalisation of the methods of its continuance. The Party is aware that the future of sugar in Barbados depends upon the negotiations which will take place in or out of the European Common Market when the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement finally expires but whatever their outcome it is vital that the industry improves its technical efficiency.

In this respect the Party proposes:



1. The introduction of mechanical planting and harvesting where ever necessary, subject to safeguards for existing workers.
2. To determine the man power needs in the mechanisation of the industry and provide for the training of required personnel.
3. To encourage co-operative associations of small cane farmers to provide the same facilities of production and marketing as large estates.

## COMMON MARKET

The Party believes that Barbados should aim at receiving some of the benefits of the Agricultural Policy of the European Common Market should Britain join, if necessary accepting a form of Association such as is enjoyed by other developing countries. In this regard the Party will promote a common Caribbean approach to the problems of sugar marketing.

## RUM

In view of the special and well acknowledged qualities of Barbados Rum the Party will seek to develop a single Barbados Marketing Agency to open and create new markets throughout the world.

## SCOTLAND DISTRICTS

The Party's aim is to seek assistance in dealing with this area as a major single project. In the interim assistance will be given for the planting of pine, citrus, and other appropriate trees, including economic tree crops, to help stabilise the area; the soil conservation scheme will be reorganised to take into account the experience of the last fifteen years; all roads will be made passable and maintained in proper condition.

## FISHERIES

Despite the proven feasibility of deep sea fishing from Barbados, as demonstrated by the success of the locally based United Nations project, the Government has failed to take the lead in establishing such an operation in Barbados.

The Party's proposals are therefore:

1. The re-establishment of a shrimp industry, reputedly and competently run.
2. The development of a national off shore fishing industry.
3. Provision of fishing harbours at Oistins and Speightstown with proper cold storage facilities.
4. Provision of grants and loans for the re-equipment of the industry with larger boats and suitable gear.
5. Provision of technical training for fishermen and those employed in the industry.
6. Assistance in the further development of fishing co-operatives.

## POULTRY, PIGS, MEAT, AND MILK

Special attention will be paid by the B.L.P. to ensuring a greater local production of poultry and eggs by:-

1. Investigating the establishment of a central processing plant.
2. Giving necessary assistance in creating bulk facilities for a feed plant to provide cheaper feeds.

The Party will introduce a realistic subsidy scheme to owners and producers of meat and milk animals. Urgent steps will be taken to encourage a build up of the pig population and a pork processing plant will be established, the machinery for which has been available for some years.

## FARMING IN THE FUTURE

The B.L.P. feels that farming must be a dignified operation and we envisage the farmer of the future as an all round, full time, professional working his own economic holding, aided by workers who will include agricultural technologists trained in all aspects of the mechanical operation of farming equipment.

Our agricultural policy is based on a new outlook new people with good wages and good working conditions.

## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In 10 years manufacturing industry has made practically no gain in the proportion it occupies in the overall national product of Barbados. In 1961 when the Barbados Labour Party went out of power there were already 48 Pioneer Industries granted operating permission. Under the Democratic Labour Party industrial expansion is now slowing to a standstill and breaking down under the weight of the incompetence and conflict of interest evident in the dealings of some of the present personnel of the Board of the Industrial Development Corporation.

The IDC needs to be remodelled and transformed from an "administrative" to a truly "promotional" agency. This requires a team of highly qualified staff researching on viable industrial possibilities and canvassing these investment possibilities to potential investors rather than, as is now the practice, travelling around selling tax incentives and buying lunches for foreign businessmen. Barbados should not aim merely at



attracting those industries which exploit 'cheap' labour, and which leave at the end of the tax holiday or when wage rates rise. A new strategy for the promoting manufacturing industry during the 1970's is called for.

The BLP's objectives are to:

1. Knit together a viable selection of manufacturing enterprises that ensure continued industrial growth over time as opposed to a random mixed bag of industries which have a high mortality risk on the expiry of tax holidays.
2. Encourage the build-up and permanent employment of a skilled and well paid labour force in the Island.
3. Promote Barbadian ownership and management of industrial enterprises.
4. Facilitate the growth of indigenous small scale industry by making advice available on matters such as cost accounting and control, capital budgeting, production, and marketing.

## HOUSING

Housing, like food and clothing, is a basic necessity for every citizen. In this respect the D.L.P. has failed miserably to meet the needs of Barbadians, by neglecting to build an adequate number of houses annually for low income families, and by not tackling the great problems of sub-standard housing.

Having misled the people in 1961 that rents were not to be paid on Housing estates and loans not to be repaid, they have failed to devote an adequate proportion of government funds to the housing Authority, and have failed to ensure that such funds as were supplied have been spent in the proper manner and not channelled towards manipulators and lackeys of the D.L.P. Their housing programme has produced an average of less than 200 houses per year in Barbados in the last ten years, where the B.L.P. average was much higher.

A concerted attack must be made on this problem immediately. The Party therefore undertakes to reorganise the entire Housing administration in Barbados to provide the citizens with suitable living conditions and an environment that is satisfactory both physically and socially. The Party therefore proposes:-

1. To introduce measures to accelerate the public and private building programme so as to construct not less than 500 housing units annually. This will include the utilisation of new building techniques, improved mortgage finance and better cost control in public housing.
2. To produce new designs in housing to deal with scarcity of

land. New density ratios will be established, and more multiple occupancy units will be built.

3. Practical schemes of low cost building on a self-help basis will be encouraged and the formation of housing co-operatives will be promoted.

The B.L.P. pledges to make provision for proper amenities including properly laid out playing fields with pavilions, open spaces, play areas and day nurseries in all government housing areas. Tenants' Advisory Offices will be established to assist those living in government housing areas.

## PHYSICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

Concentration of services and development in the Bridgetown area is one of the greatest threats to the proper physical development of Barbados. This puts an insupportable strain on the transport system, health services, and housing, and could in the future be a threat to water supplies and the environment generally as a result of difficulty in the disposal of sewage and domestic garbage. In its 1966 Election Manifesto the Barbados Labour Party proposed the development of Oistins, Speightstown, Hometown, and Central St. George, as subsidiary urban areas. The D.L.P. subsequently adopted a number of the B.L.P.'s proposals but has done nothing of consequence to implement them. The Party reiterates its intention to develop these areas as subsidiary urban centres, and will also develop:

1. Belleplaine, St. Andrew.
2. Welchman Hall, St. Thomas.
3. An appropriate area in St. Philip.

The new facilities to be added will include Social centres, Vegetable markets, library extensions, gymnastic and sporting facilities for both men and women, and Post Offices.

## TOWN PLANNING

The Town Planning Department will be required to publish guide lines along which it acts when considering applications for development, so that anyone seeking to develop land will be able to see at a glance whether his proposals fall within established standards. The B.L.P. expects that this will avoid capriciousness or worse in the grant of planning permission in the future. The Party will also investigate the estab-



## TEAM FOR THE SEVENTIES



H. BERNARD ST. JOHN  
Ch. Ch. South Central



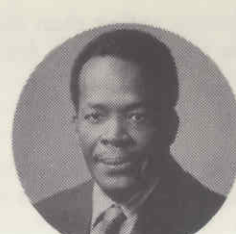
HENRY FORDE  
Ch. Ch. West



MAURICE WARD  
Ch.Ch. North-Central



ELLIOT MOTTLEY  
City of Bridgetown



LLOYD B. BRATHWAITE  
St. Andrew



TOM ADAMS  
St. Thomas



RICHARD "JOHNNY" CHELTENHAM  
CH. CH., East.



GILMORE ROCHEFORD  
St. Michael North-East



MENCEA COX  
St. Michael South - East



LIONEL CRAIG  
St. James



NIGEL BARROW  
St. George North



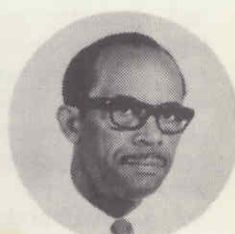
LOUIS TULL  
St. George South



LESTER WHITEHEAD  
St. Michael North-West



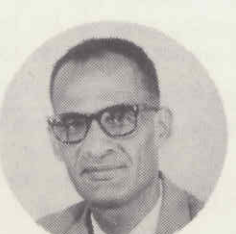
ELTON MOTTLEY  
St. Michael West



RONALD MAPP  
St. Michael South - Central



BURTON HINDS  
St. Peter



ROY BRATHWAITE  
St. Lucy



LINDSAY BOLDEN  
St. Joseph



RANDOLPH FIELDS  
St. Michael South



JACK ODLE  
St. Michael North-Central



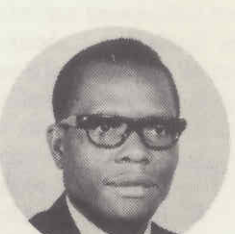
NORMA WEEKES  
ST. Michael-South-West



EVANS WEBSTER  
St. John



DAVID SIMMONS  
St. Philip North



DELISLE BRADSHAW  
St. Philip South

VOTE BLP



lishment of a Planning Authority rather than placing upon the shoulders of a single public servant the responsibility for Town and Country Planning as a whole.

## LAND USE

The policy of the B.L.P. is to put Barbados first. The amount of land in Barbados is severely limited. In recent years Barbadians have increasingly found themselves competing against foreigners for the most desirable of our country's land. This has driven the price of land up beyond the point to which Barbadians alone would normally have bid for it, and it is creating speculation and undesirable fluctuations in land values. The policy of the B.L.P. is that Barbadians must not become strangers in their own country. The Party's guidelines for land use will reflect the principle of Barbadians first.

## POLLUTION

Barbados' air, water supply, beaches and city streets are all subject to the environmental pollution of modern life. Narrow city and suburban streets are fouled by fumes from motor vehicles; the island's water, many experts predict, will be contaminated by surface soakage of some of the chemical products of modern industry which do not break down in nature; beaches are spoilt by domestic waste, and areas immediately off shore are affected by sewage. Gullies in St. Thomas, St. Peter, and St. James, are being used as dumping grounds for bulky garbage. The DLP has not shown that it is even aware that there is a problem.

A department for the Control of Environmental Pollution will be set up and the B.L.P. pledges to keep this problem in the forefront of its considerations.

## BRIDGETOWN DEVELOPMENT

Bridgetown is rapidly being choked by the increasing flood of motor vehicles that clog its narrow streets and pour gasoline and diesel fumes into its air. Plans so far put forward under the sponsorship of the DLP have not proved satisfactory as remedies for the huge problems involved. The Barbados Labour Party pledges a massive examination of every aspect of the difficulties now faced with a view to

1. Expansion of the commercial district of Bridgetown.
2. Dealing with the problem of car parks.
3. Giving the capital of our nation a more dignified and distinctive setting of parks, squares and good modern buildings.
4. Special development of selected areas such as the Cathedral Square and Hincks Street.
5. Creating a new and enlarged road plan for the central area.

## PARKS AND BEACHES

The B.L.P. proposes:

1. Provision of more facilities in public areas and the development of park facilities in inner Bridgetown.
2. Control of shore erosion and preservation of all Barbados' sea cliffs.
3. To support research projects investigating and preserving Barbados' off shore marine life.
4. Public access to beaches and construction of beach facilities will be accelerated. In particular the BLP will develop major beach facilities at Dover in Christ Church (using newly exchanged lands) and also at Brandons in St. Michael.
5. The establishment of parks along the undeveloped coastlines of St. Philip, St. Lucy, and the Pico Teneriffe area of St. Peter, and giving general public access to the attractive seascapes of these areas.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

No area of government activity needs greater reorganisation than the Ministry of Communication and Works. There is a serious shortage of technical talent, no effort is made to raise the productivity of employees, and indeed, year after year, the Ministry is unable to fulfil its role of properly carrying out the physical works set out in development planning.

The B.L.P. is convinced that a drastic reorganisation is necessary, and this the Party will undertake. A thorough investigation will be instituted with a view to raising productivity, attracting personnel, and the execution of a planned programme of road works designed to cater to the needs of Barbadians for the 70's and beyond, bearing in mind the rapid rise in the number of motor cars; the need for swift and safe transport; and the particular need for a new concept of road development in the Bridgetown area.

The Party envisages the following programme of major road works in the next five years:-

1. An urban road from Westbury Road to Brighton in the parish of St. Michael erected in conjunction with the layout for a harbour expansion scheme.
2. A coastal road from Bathsheba in St. Joseph to College Savannah in St. John thereby extending the length of properly paved road on the Island's attractive eastern seaboard.
3. Reconstruction of the road junctions at Eagle Hall at the same time making space available for community development in the area.
4. An increased programme of construction of tenantry roads.



## COMMUNICATIONS

The Barbados Labour Party is proud that, in spite of the opposition of the present Prime Minister it built the Deep Water Harbour the greatest project ever undertaken, in the Island. The Party continues to be proud that the Harbour not only pays for itself and repays the loans which were raised to finance it, but also assists in paying off some of the Public Debt which the present DLP Government has incurred by its reckless misspending.

The Party recognises that Harbour expansion is now necessary and pledges itself to undertake the required works which will involve reclamation and construction to the north of the present site. At the same time the entire Lands End - Brandon - Lower Westbury districts will be developed, with recreational and industrial zones providing amenities and employment for one of Barbados' most densely populated areas.

## DRAINAGE

Several times in the last five years heavy rains in Barbados have created flood conditions on an unprecedented scale, especially in October 1970. Despite repeated warnings the DLP has done nothing to provide the most elementary flood control measures to protect communications, comfort, or indeed life. The Scotland District, with all the remedial works initiated by the Barbados Labour Party has been a notable casualty of neglect.

The BLP therefore proposes:

1. To institute a programme of well digging and cleaning in the water-courses leading to Bridgetown.
2. To canalise the stream between the Roebuck roundabout and Bridge Road.
3. To drain the Birds River-Brandon River-Indian River low lying areas of Western St. Michael in the course of the New Harbour development.
4. To examine the entire system of bridges, culverts, drains, and conduits in the Island and to make use of modern flood control technology ignored by the DLP - in dealing with flood problems affecting their efficiency.

## ELECTRIFICATION

Electricity should be in the home of every citizen in a modern society, yet in 1971 many districts and large numbers of families in Barbados are still without access to a supply of electricity for their homes.

It is not that they do not want electricity or that they have not tried to get it but that installations are hard to come by in areas not large enough for the Barbados Light and Power Company to consider the necessary expenditure justifiable in the light of expected return.

The Barbados Labour Party cannot accept that those of its citizens who live in small or remote areas and who cannot afford to pay for private installation of electricity should be condemned to darkness. It therefore pledges to institute an immediate programme of financial assistance to bring electricity within three years to every district in Barbados with six or more houses whose residents wish this service.

## EDUCATION AND CULTURE

After ten years of DLP rule the young are untrained and unguided to fill the jobs existing in the economy and foreigners are still being brought in to fill these jobs. After ten years of DLP rule nearly all the children of those who can afford to pay receive free secondary education while the vast majority of the children of the poor go to the independent secondary schools where they have to pay high fees. After ten years of DLP rule the primary school system is in a state of decay.

Moreover, nothing has been done to ensure that equal facilities are available at all secondary schools thereby removing the odious distinctions between "first grade" and "second grade" schools and between these and the comprehensive schools. Nothing has been done to ensure that secondary education is available and easily acceptable to the large numbers of children who require it. This has resulted in massive transportation problems and injury to children who have to spend a great deal of time travelling long distances to and from school. Nothing has been done to update the educational system to make it relevant to the requirements of economic expansion. Training youth to fill the jobs created must be an important part of any progressive educational policy, but the DLP has shown that it has neither the will nor the ability to provide such training. As a result grave harm is being done to the youth of this country who are experiencing a deep and abiding sense of frustration and the economy is not receiving the impetus it needs from the education system.

The BLP is convinced that only a fully integrated system of comprehensive education geared to equipping all our children of varying abilities for higher education and or gainful employment can meet the challenge of the seventies and to this end will consult with the teachers' unions and:



1. Establish a Teaching Service Commission thereby providing for a well qualified and integrated professional service.
2. Reorganise such institutions as the Community College, the Polytechnic, the Technical Institute and the Evening Institute, to make them effective instruments of educational policy and eliminate waste.
3. Provide training for technologists and technicians required in Barbados and likely to be required in Barbados and to this end widen the curricula in the schools.
4. Review the Common Entrance Examination to provide a more flexible system of progress from the primary to the secondary stage of education.
5. Increase and reorganise the primary and secondary school system to ensure that educational opportunities are free and available to all children who require them and that schools equipped with proper amenities for both staff and pupils should be in close proximity to centres of population.
6. Review the entire system of public examinations.
7. Employ more teachers on the permanent establishment.
8. Expand the facilities for teacher training.
9. Encourage the teaching of arts as an important aspect of educational development.
10. Expansion of machinery for vocational guidance.
11. Assume its responsibility to the physically and mentally handicapped by the provision of educational facilities.
12. Initiate an effective programme of adult education.
13. Improve the quality and administration of the school meals programme in order to eliminate the present threats to childrens' health and to end discriminatory employment practices and extend it to all government schools.

In the field of University Education the Party remains persuaded that the interests of Barbados and of the Caribbean area are best served by the continued development of the regional university, UWI, and will play its part in ensuring that this development is along lines dictated by regional needs.

## CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Our colonial past and foreign oriented policies of the DLP have so debased life in our community that there is little awareness of our own Caribbean culture and little encouragement given to our people to use their creative talents. Confidence in our own abilities has been

systematically undermined with the consequence that in many instances we readily accept the sub-standard from abroad in preference to our own, even where the latter is of excellent quality.

The harmonious development of our nation will continue to lag unless we recognise the need to stimulate the vigorous expression of our creative talent. The Party will foster:

1. A centre for the performing arts with all necessary auditoria.
2. A National Design Centre.
3. A National Theatre Company.
4. A National Dance Company.
5. More local content of radio and television programmes.
6. Machinery for the general involvement of the community in all aspects of national artistic and cultural life.

## LABOUR, SOCIAL SECURITY, and EMPLOYER - EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

1. The Party is convinced that a radical attack on  
The Labour conditions of workers in Barbados;  
The unemployment situation;  
Low productivity;  
Cheap labour rates; and,  
The removal of the sources of discontent between employers and employees, must be made in the immediate future;  
If young people are not to become further frustrated;  
If productivity is to be increased; and

If future manpower requirements in Barbados are to be adequately diagnosed and Barbadians trained to meet these requirements. The Party will therefore implement immediately a reorganisation of the Ministry of Labour, establishing a reorganised Labour Department and a decentralisation of labour exchanges to ensure that the public is aware of employment opportunities available. Every effort will be made to see that these opportunities are made known to people who seek opportunities for work.



2. A Manpower Research Unit will be established, working in close conjunction with the Education authorities to provide:-
  - (a) greater vocational guidance and training.
  - (b) higher productivity.
3. The Party will ensure that workers receive a fair day's wage for a fair day's work, especially in the industrial sector.
4. Training for higher productivity will be encouraged so as to create better conditions.
5. The statistical unit will be directed to provide information on unemployment and, in this connection, the Party is of the opinion that a great deal of information could be provided by way of the National Insurance Cards.
6. A review of all labour legislation will be undertaken and laws modernised to cater to the requirements of the 70's, especially for safe conditions of employment which includes the growing problem of noise in industrial establishments.

## SEVERANCE PAY

It is to be noted that the DLP government implemented proposals contained in the Barbados Labour Party's 1966 manifesto, and introduced a Severance Pay Act. The Party's aim is to bring this into operation at an early date.

## NATIONAL INSURANCE

The Party is aware that inflation has seriously undermined benefits under the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme now in existence. It is therefore undertaking immediate review of the level of benefits paid under the National Insurance Scheme.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE

The administration of National Assistance in Barbados needs complete re-organisation. The Party will undertake to ensure that hunger arising from unemployment or any other reason does not take place in Barbados and that assistance is given immediately to those in need, with the minimum possible delay and without political interference or the hope of political advantage.

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL PLANNING

The Party's health policy is basically to provide health services to the population in areas within easy reach, and at a cost within the means of all Barbadians. The Party planned and started the Queen Elizabeth

Hospital, it built the Oistins District Hospital, and a number of health centres throughout Barbados, and this programme has not been interfered with under subsequent governments.

The Party will continue this hospital building programme and will further institute the following measures:

1. Free medical facilities for pensioners and preschool children.
2. The introduction of a National Insurance medical plan.
3. The creation of a system of incentives to doctors who establish practices in areas in the country.
4. The expansion of specialists' services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.
5. The expansion of Family Planning facilities.
6. Creation of an integrated Mental Health Service with extended facilities within easy reach of all who need assistance.

## SOCIAL PLANNING FOR THE OLD AND THE YOUNG

### YOUTH

No country concerned with its future development and prosperity can fail to invest in and protect its young people. Young people throughout the world have been undergoing a revolution in their values. The B.L.P. pledges to identify the young people of Barbados more closely with all its efforts at national reconstruction and development. In this regard, the following is proposed:

1. A national Youth Development Programme worked out in conjunction with existing youth organisations including the YMCA, Scout and Guide movements, Church Lads and Girls Brigades and the 4H Movement.
2. Strengthening of the Youth Council.
3. Provision of opportunities wherever possible for young people to serve on national bodies concerned with administration and public affairs.



## THE OLD

No just society can neglect its old people. Because of the mass emigration of Barbadians in the 1950's and 1960's many of our old people are now without the care and company of their children. The Party proposes:

1. To provide physical facilities for proper geriatric treatment for the old and sick.
2. To provide health visitors and social counselling for old people.
3. To raise the level of assistance to old people through an increase in old age pensions and the providing of free medical services.
4. To give special assistance in housing for the old.

## LEGAL, SECURITY, CITIZENSHIP and IMMIGRATION

The Barbados Labour Party intends to put into effect a programme of legal reforms which will take into account the social needs of the people and not only the convenience of lawyers or of the special pressure groups such as foreign banks who have always had the ear of the DLP. The BLP will set up a permanent Law Reform and Revision Committee with a full time chairman and a secretary, who should be a Crown Counsel assigned to the committee to assist in drafting. The Committee will be specifically charged with keeping our system of law up to date.

### STATUS OF THE INDIVIDUAL

Very little has been done in the field of personal and family law reform in the last ten years and the BLP pledges the following measures to improve the status of citizens, especially younger ones.

1. Reducing the age of majority from 21 years to 18 years. The Party feels that this step is long overdue in the light of the capacity and aspirations of modern youth.
2. Raising the age of Marriage to 16 years. The Party thinks that it is quite wrong to continue in force the old common law rules by which a girl in Barbados may marry at 12 and a boy at 14.
3. Amending and modernising the law of divorce. This will be undertaken after consultation with interested bodies such as Churches and Women's organisations who will be invited to make submissions of their views.

4. Extending Legal Aid to husband and wife cases and affiliation matters, and providing more counselling and guidance in domestic affairs generally.

## COURTS

The Magisterial Court system will be entirely re-organised with new courts if necessary at Oistins and Speightstown, and much greater centralisation of other district courts and their functions. The officers of the courts will be brought under the jurisdiction of the magistrates.

## SECURITY

The Barbados Labour Party believes that the privacy of the citizen has on numerous occasions been unjustifiably infringed by secret tapping of telephones unhindered by any code of conduct such as protects the basic or constitutional rights of the individual in other countries. The Party pledges that these practices will be investigated and exposed where appropriate, and that the right of the citizen to privacy, enshrined in our Constitution, will in future be protected. The BLP will also ensure that security officers of the Special Branch of the Police are not put or encouraged to work in the interest of the political party forming the government rather than of the government as a government.

## CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

The BLP considers that there have been allegations so grave relating to the terms under which citizenship or permission to reside and work in Barbados has been granted that an investigation is called for. This will examine the criteria applied, whether the same conditions hold for all applicants, and will take a look at the role played by lawyer members of the Democratic Labour Party in 'processing' these applications. The BLP pledges that it will publish the criteria it intends to apply to prospective immigrants into Barbados and proposes:

1. A new Immigration Act which will, among other things, extend to prospective immigrants of non-Commonwealth citizenship the same conditions as apply to Commonwealth citizens at present. This is particularly necessary to deal properly with the large number of US citizens who are the children of or married to Barbadians.
2. To set out new categories of preferred persons, particularly the husbands of Barbadian women. The BLP feels that such persons should be freely allowed to live and work in Barbados as long as their marriage is one that would be valid if celebrated in Barbados and as long as the household remains intact.
3. To insist that any person who assists a prospective immigrant to complete an application form for reward must also sign his name on the completed form. This requirement exists in many countries and is designed to protect applicants from those who are, in effect, offering



to sell their influence as well as their skill in filling out forms.

## MORALITY IN GOVERNMENT

The party is acutely concerned that one of the gravest dangers facing newly Independent Countries is the lack of confidence in the Democratic system of Government arising from abuse of Office for personal gain by Ministers, political appointees on Boards, and civil servants. The Barbados Labour Party has been able, particularly in the last five years of D.L.P. office holding, to expose many instances of this serious offence. The Party is determined to stamp this out and return to the purity of Barbados' political tradition. The party pledges to take the following steps immediately:

1. The appointment of a Commission of Enquiry into all aspects of corruption in the last ten years.
2. The laying down of a code of conduct for Ministers, political appointees and civil servants.
3. It will pass legislation providing for its Prime Minister and its Ministers disclosing their financial assets and liabilities on assuming office, periodically during office, and on termination. Enforcement machinery will be established to ensure that this is complied with.
4. As a matter of principle no future salary increase will be voted by members of the House of Assembly themselves except after an independent review by an outside body.

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*We have presented you with our programme and our team to take this country through the Seventies. It is a programme designed to give hope again to you, the Electors, particularly the young electors. It is a team competent to handle the complexities of modern government.*

*We need to stamp out corruption. We need to restore the good name of this country in all circles, especially in the Caribbean. We need to regain a reputation for sanity and responsibility in public affairs. This can only be achieved by entrusting the national business to those who really care about the country, about its people and about making full use of our national talents. We urge you to go to the polls on September 9, to vote for our candidates and to ensure a bright future for every citizen and resident by returning a Barbados Labour Party Government.*

*We have the ideas, we have the men, we have the commitment to the masses of this country who have suffered ten years of exploitation at the hands of a Government which has been indifferent to the interest of the people of Barbados.*

LET US BUILD A BARBADOS WITH EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL  
ITS PEOPLE. VOTE FOR THE TEAM VOTE B.L.P.

PRINTED BY  
CARIBBEAN GRAPHIC PRODUCTION LTD  
ELLERTON HOUSE, ST GEORGE BARBADOS



**TIME FOR A CHANGE**

**SEPTEMBER 9**

**IS**

**YOUR NEW**

**LABOUR DAY**

**VOTE B L P**