




**BLP**  
**MANIFESTO**  

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**1986**

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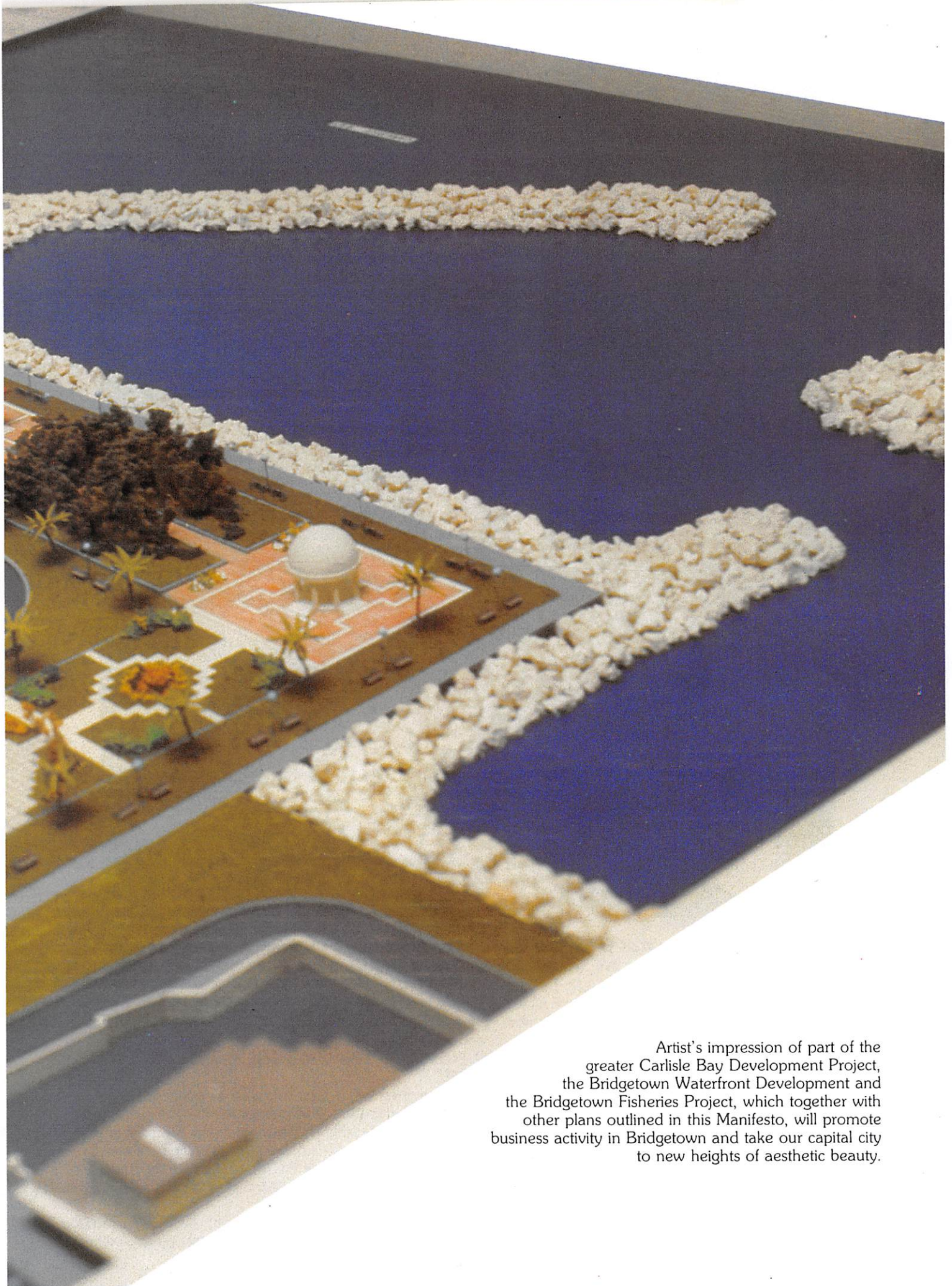
## In this Manifesto

### FOREWORD –

Hon. Bernard  
St. John, Q.C., M.P.,

- Preserving our Democracy
- Economic Policy and Taxation
- Trade and Industry ● Off Shore Services ● Tourism ● Regional and International Transport ● Agriculture
- Fisheries ● Energy ● Transport & Works
- Utilities ● Physical Development ● The Environment ● Communications ● Education
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Artist's impression of part of the greater Carlisle Bay Development Project, the Bridgetown Waterfront Development and the Bridgetown Fisheries Project, which together with other plans outlined in this Manifesto, will promote business activity in Bridgetown and take our capital city to new heights of aesthetic beauty.





**YOUR CANDIDATE (Christ Church East Central)**  
**ST. JOHN. Harold Bernard. Age: 54**

Educated at Boys' Foundation School; Harrison College; University College, London University (LL.B Hons.); Barrister-at-Law (Inner Temple); Queen's Counsel (1969); Member of the Senate (1964-66 and 1971-76); Member of the House of Assembly (1966-71 and since 1976); Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry (1976-85); President of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries Council of Ministers (1979); President of Latin American Council of Ministers (1980); Prime Minister and Minister of Finance since March 1985.

A distinguished lawyer, Bernard St. John came to the nation's highest office after 27 years in public life. He had long enjoyed an enviable reputation for courage and strength of character, for candour and unimpeachable integrity. An efficient administrator, his incisive intellect enables him to cut through a maze of detail to immediately focus on the core of any issue, a gift he used with telling effect in negotiations at Lomé on behalf of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

Prime Minister St. John, the current Chairman of CARICOM, has a clear vision of the future direction of Barbados. In a speech in Parliament on December 17, 1985, he said: "We believe that in this country we will set the pace for all of the rest of the Caribbean".

His record of public service, in particular over the last 15 months as the nation's chief servant, has demonstrated his capacity to provide the leadership necessary to enhance Barbados' position as a model nation among developing countries.



## FOREWORD

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On Wednesday May 28, 1986, the people of Barbados will go to the polls to elect a government whose task it will be to complete the preparations for launching our country into the Twenty-first century.

For you the electors therefore, May 28 will be a time to choose whether we go forward as a nation able to beat the challenges of the 1990's and achieve greater prosperity or whether we return to a Barbados of despair with the licensing restrictions and harsh fiscal and monetary policies of the early 1970's and a consequential contraction in the delivery of social services.

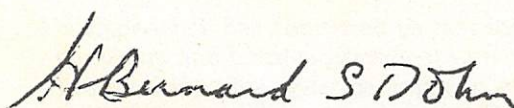
In order to assist you in making your decision, we have published for your examination and scrutiny a document entitled "The Promises We Make . . . WE PERFORM". It documents our achievements over the last five years in economic management, in health, in education, in agriculture, in housing, in culture, in women's affairs – indeed in every sphere of government. These achievements have firmly established Barbados as a society which cares for its people and fully commits itself to the principle of fair and equal treatment for all its citizens.

As the Party in Government in the last ten years, we are proud of the fact that despite global economic turbulence and financial fluctuations and trade restrictions within the region, we have managed to maintain and promote Barbados' economic growth and stability and to place our country in the leading ranks of developing states.

There is more before us. Recent trends in western economies confirm that significant and lasting changes are occurring in the international industrial structure. Barbados, with its maturing economy will not escape this trend just as it could not escape the global economic recession.

The wide ranging policies set out in our Manifesto offer a way forward because they relate to the real needs and genuine concerns of Barbados on the threshold of the Twenty-first century.

The Barbados Labour Party therefore re-dedicates itself to the service of all of the people of Barbados. We urge you to support the BLP on May 28.



H. Bernard St. John



## BLP MANIFESTO 1986

### PRESERVING OUR DEMOCRACY

#### THE CONSTITUTION:

In terms of age, our Constitution, the supreme law of the land, has been in existence for only 19 years. The democratic principles which it seeks to preserve however, are much older and are founded on the historic values inherited and the experiences gained in the Island's struggle towards independence. It behoves each one of us to preserve them.

The Barbados Labour Party in office has done much to this end. The establishment of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, a body for which we fought against bitter opposition from the other political party, is now accepted as an important device for guaranteeing free and fair elections. But the need for vigilance still exists.

When re-elected, the Party will at an early date initiate debate in Parliament on the Cox Commission Report on the reform of the Constitution and seek bi-partisan support for implementation of those of its proposals that have not yet been implemented. Particular regard will be paid to further and better entrenching fundamental human rights, such as the **right to vote** and to provisions which will prevent discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex or creed. If we are to build and preserve a truly multi-party, non-racial, parliamentary democracy, we cannot tolerate the preaching or practising of race hatred.

#### PARLIAMENT

Parliament is crucial to the preservation of our democracy. Its place as the supreme law-making body must always be fully recognised. During our tenure of office, concrete measures have been taken to underpin the authority of Parliament. These measures will be improved and expanded. In particular, we will:

- Make provisions to enable members of Parliament to maintain effective constituency offices, thus enabling them to keep in touch with the concerns of their constituents.
- Provide improved research facilities for M.Ps to better enable them to participate in debates.
- With bi-partisan approval, restructure, modernise and strengthen the Committee System and make use of Joint Committees of the House and Senate. The Committees will be given an increased role to keep a check on the actions of the Executive. Funds will be made available to enable the Committees to engage research and support staff. The aim is to enable Parliament to exercise greatly enhanced powers to achieve accountability in public administration within the state.
- Establish a bi-partisan Committee to consider ways in which the role of the private Members (the back-benchers) can be enhanced; and give effect to the Committee's recommendations.

- Simplify the drafting of legislation and publish major legislation for public comment well ahead of its final passing by Parliament. A simplified Interpretation of Legislation Act will be introduced.
- Make greater use of the Westminster system of Green and White Papers. By this mechanism, the Government will be able to have public reaction to its proposed measures before enactment or action.
- Collect, collate and publish parliamentary and constitutional practices and conventions as well as the rulings of Speakers' on questions of parliamentary privilege.
- With bi-partisan support, make improvements in the legislative process and procedures of the House of Assembly and update the laws and rules on parliamentary privileges.

#### 350TH ANNIVERSARY

The Year 1989 marks the 350th Anniversary of the establishment of Parliamentary Government in Barbados. This is an important milestone in our history and national development and should be suitably recognised and celebrated.

The Parliament Building will be fully refurbished and modernised ahead of the occasion. The current work of renovations will be continued.

Improved facilities will be provided in the Parliament building for members of both Houses, the staff of Parliament, the media and the public.

A bi-partisan Committee of the House and Senate will be constituted to propose detailed plans for the Anniversary Celebrations.

The occasion will be used to focus the public's attention on the history, work, functions, role and importance of Parliament. Special importance will be given to the need of youth to be fully aware of their system of government and its workings. Model Parliaments will be established in schools at least for the year of celebrations.

#### MORE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Experience has convinced us that the total abolition of the Vestry and Local Government systems has to some extent weakened the wider participation of the people in the democratic processes of government. The Cox Commission Report has examined this problem and reported on its solution. The Barbados Labour Party is committed to the development of greater community involvement in the making and determination of the policies and programmes of government both within and across the areas of departmental responsibility. It will, as recommended by the Cox Commission, encourage greater regionalism as a means of decentralising power and bringing the services nearer to the people.

A start has already been made. Regional Advisory Health Councils have been established to oversee aspects of the health services as administered through the Polyclinics. The establishment and upgrading of subsidiary towns and centres or satellite centres such as Oistins, Speightstown and the planned improvements at Holetown, Belleplaine, Six Roads, Charles Rowe Bridge/Glebe, Horse Hill and Four Roads, St.



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John, will be part of this strategy of the development of greater community participation.

Among the other measures planned to achieve this goal are:

- The early publication of a "Green Paper" and public discussion on the establishment of Neighbourhood Councils in communities across the Island.
- The strengthening and broadening of the Community Development Division.
- A review of the procedures for appointments to public bodies to ensure that they are more open and genuinely representative of the community.
- Making the public services more responsive to the needs and wishes of the public who use them. The services will be decentralised and due regard paid to cost efficiency.
- The provision of more effective procedures for citizens' complaints and increasing and improving the training and status of those public servants in contact with the public.
- The early appointment of an Ombudsman and the provision of staff for his office.
- Ensuring that greater community involvement does not result in the duplication and the undermining of the efficiency and effectiveness of services.

## THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Barbados is fortunate to have a Public Service with high standards of administration and integrity. The Public Service has efficiently and loyally assisted in the dramatic transition of the country from colonial status to an independent nation. It has coped effectively with the far-reaching demands and changes made in all aspects of government.

But we must constantly ensure that it is geared to serve the needs of the people in a modern and rapidly changing world and that the parameters of its relationship to the elected representatives are clearly defined and understood. The smooth functioning of this relationship is vital to the maintenance of the principles of ministerial and Cabinet collective responsibility and accountability to Parliament. We therefore propose to:

- Put into legislation those proposals in the Cox Commission Report which will strengthen the Public Service. Full consultation on these measures will be held with the Opposition and the trade union and other representatives of the Public Service.
- Establish a broadly based Commission with wide terms of reference to review the status, role and functioning of the Public Service, its relationship to the elected representatives and its accountability to Parliament and the people's representatives.

The Opposition and the Public Service Unions and representatives will be fully consulted on the terms of reference and composition of the Commission. The Report of the Commission will be laid in Parliament, fully debated and bi-partisan support sought for those of its proposals which ought to be implemented. The aim is to maintain and uplift the morale and efficiency of the Public Service and to strengthen its public accountability.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability is the bedrock of parliamentary democracy.

There are several other measures which can be taken to enhance the efficiency of government and its agencies and their accountability to the people.

In those Commonwealth nations where the Westminster System of Government has been entrenched, there are several examples and models for us to follow. We will continue to draw on these experiences wherever relevant, ever mindful of our own indigenous experiences and of the desire of our people to be involved in the governmental process.

The aim of wider public participation is ultimately to improve the standards of living and the quality of life of **all** Barbadians. We address that goal further in the other topics which follow.

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## ECONOMIC POLICY AND TAXATION

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The Barbados Labour Party is proud that it has transformed Barbados into a thriving and stable middle income country.

Emphasis has been placed on the expansion of trade and the growth of services as the main sources of income; on the creation of a healthy and competitive environment within which the private sector, both foreign and local, can function to the country's advantage; and on employment and foreign exchange generation.

Our economic policies have also been designed to increase our national income so as to ensure that there will be greater employment. This will be achieved by introducing measures to encourage investment, stimulate personal and entrepreneurial initiative by the shaping of our taxation system to ease the burden of taxation, reward and encourage those who save and invest and stimulate our productive sectors by offering a wide range of generous concessions.

The setting up of a Securities Exchange will provide a base for the development of a capital market which will give a significant boost to the manufacturing and commercial sectors by providing access to capital.

Already tax concessions have been granted for investment in new share capital and for savings through credit unions and Special Bond issues. Further encouragement will be given for private companies to become public and for public sector participation in share ownership through unit trusts.



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## CHALLENGES AND POLICIES

We are now on the threshold of another period of economic advance. Among the major challenges that will face the new BLP administration will be:

- To restructure our local manufacturing industry, which has been established over 25 years and was largely catering to the local and Caricom market, with a view to making it more able to compete in extra-regional markets thereby enhancing the opportunities for job creation and retention.
- To accelerate and broaden our national training programmes to meet the demands of changing requirements in industry and commerce.
- To preserve the stable balance of payments and external debt position of Barbados.
- To preserve and protect the purchasing power of Barbadian incomes by moderating the rate of inflation.
- To preserve the parity value of the Barbados dollar.
- To use the instruments of public investment to create wider opportunities for commercial and industrial development.
- To upgrade essential public services in our continuing efforts to improve the quality of life of all Barbadians.
- To promote the vigorous development of our small business and artisan class of producers and to create special tax regimes to initiate and sustain such enterprises.
- To fully realise Barbados' potential to become one of the main service centres in the Caribbean and Latin America.
- To provide strategic assistance and encouragement in areas of economic activity which contribute significantly to the creation of jobs and the generation of income and foreign exchange.
- To encourage the fullest use of existing productive capacity, the development of a stronger entrepreneurial spirit and the strengthening of technological and human resources.
- To so restructure the taxation policies as progressively to reduce the burden of taxation while taking fully into account the revenue requirements needed to sustain the delivery of necessary social services.
- To continue to relieve the burden of taxation in favour of those least able to pay, whether directly or indirectly.
- To encourage high levels of domestic savings and investment.

## TAXATION

**The BLP can rightly claim to be the Tax Reform Party of Barbados.**

During its ten years in office the Party has taken a series of bold and imaginative measures which have dramatically abolished estate and succession duties, the sales tax and the trade tax. It has increased personal income tax allowance from \$1,200 to \$3,000, reduced the top rate of tax to 50 per cent, expanded the tax bands on which tax is payable, raised the limit on the lower threshold from which persons begin to pay tax and freed some 50,000 taxpayers from the payment of income tax.

The Party is firmly committed to its action programme for the progressive reduction of direct taxation. As a responsible Party it must at the same time bear in mind the need to maintain and improve the range and level of social and other services so necessary for a progressive middle-income, stable and democratic country such as Barbados is today. There is therefore a clear duty to maintain a fine balance between the Party's taxation and fiscal policies and the kind of measures which must be taken and the time at which they ought to be taken.

The warning must be sounded that tinkering with the economy to secure a political advantage for a year is one of the worst forms of economic management. Fiscal and taxation policies must be geared for their long term beneficial effect, not for short term electioneering advantage. We therefore conceive it as our duty to plan and propose not only for the immediate year ahead or indeed for the five years ahead, but for the long term advantage of all Barbadians.

The proposals which follow seek to maintain this necessary balance and to achieve this recognised objective. The aim of the measures will be also to give an impetus to property and wealth creation and to answer the other challenges set out earlier.

Measures already implemented (such as the abolition of Estate and Succession duties) have given such an impetus. The generous tax allowances granted to encourage savings have already been leading to the phenomenal growth of the Credit Union movement in Barbados and of the savings accumulated by Barbadians in accounts in banking institutions. This growth and this accumulation have already had a multiplier effect on the economy as a whole.

The proposed economic and taxation policies of the re-elected BLP Government will emphasise this stimulation and maximise the benefits to be gained by all Barbadians from a thriving economy.

To meet the challenges earlier outlined, the re-elected BLP will:

- Expedite the work of the Commission which, as promised in the 1986 Budget, has been appointed to report on a graduated rate of Corporation tax and expand its terms of reference to include an enquiry into the appropriate framework within which personal income tax can be even more progressively reduced.

The Commission is composed of specialists in taxation and banking and includes representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, manufacturers and of the accounting and legal professions.



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The public is being invited to put forward proposals for the Commission's consideration. Its report will be made public, debated in Parliament and used as a guide in the formulation of taxation policies. The Commission has been mandated to report at an early date and well ahead of the next fiscal year.

- Provide income tax relief for contributions made to any capital fund which is used exclusively for the purpose of providing start-up capital, whether loan or equity, in new small businesses.
- Establish a special tax regime for professionals which will encourage them to sell their services outside of Barbados and within Barbados to foreigners and thereby earn foreign exchange.
- Establish a regime whereby the amount of Corporation tax to be paid will be linked to the generation of employment.
- Introduce a new Hotel Aids Act to encourage the development of convention facilities, particularly to take advantage of the CBI.
- Offer a new regime to life care communities and private health care enterprises to enable them to purchase their imports duty free and claim rebates on foreign exchange earnings.
- Progressively increase the allowances granted for savings in Credit Unions, premiums for life insurance policies, and education of children both at home and abroad.
- Provide income and Corporation Tax exemptions for the export of non-sugar agricultural products, and extend duty free concessions for all machinery, equipment and supplies needed for such activities, and for the development of a livestock, fruit and flower industry.
- Provide tax allowances to working students undertaking a course of study for professional examinations.
- Provide for the abolition of income tax on all national insurance pensions immediately on the Party's return to office. The BLP recognises that the National Insurance pension scheme lies at the centre of our National Pension Plan and is the principal means by which our citizens are encouraged to provide for their old age.
- Create a housing fund which will be used along with other financial measures to quicken the pace of house repairs, house extensions and the building of new houses on a dramatic scale.
- Relieve manufacturers and hoteliers from the payment of all penalties and interest due by them on outstanding arrears of all taxes owed to the Government provided that payment of the arrears is made within one year of the commencement of the necessary legislation.
- Exempt from tax maintenance payments received by a parent for the benefit of a child pursuant to an Order of Court.
- Exempt from Property Transfer Tax and Stamp Duty property transferred between spouses pursuant to an Order of Court made on the breakdown of a marriage or union other than a marriage where the property was beneficially owned by the parties.
- Continue the progressive reduction of income and Corporation tax taking into account the revenue requirements necessary to sustain the delivery of our social services, and avoiding the introduction of draconian indirect tax measures which would fall unnecessarily harshly on our poorer citizens.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Neither the population of Barbados nor that of the CARICOM countries can provide the purchasing power necessary to attract industrial activity on the scale needed to generate meaningful employment.

Access to extra-regional markets is therefore vital to a meaningful policy of industrialisation.

The BLP Government has participated with other CARICOM countries in the lobbying process to bring about passage of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBI) and CARIBCAN (the Canadian equivalent). It has also participated in the Second and Third Lomé Conventions.

The Party recognises that, given the difficulties resulting from the many obstacles to the free flow of goods and services within CARICOM, it is essential to exploit export opportunities under the CBI, CARIBCAN and Lomé.

To this end, the Party will reform the institutional machinery to ensure that the private sector receives maximum help in its effort to exploit these opportunities.

The BLP will also continue its drive to eliminate barriers hindering CARICOM trade and will foster and develop more cordial trading relationships. Specifically, the Party will:

- Continue to urge the full implementation of the Nassau Understanding.
- Seek to revive or fund a replacement for the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility.
- Promote the implementation of a special regime for Caricom enterprises which will encourage various factors of production within the Caribbean to combine for a thrust into external markets.
- Maximise efforts to promote intra-CARICOM trade.



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- Seek to expand the scope of the Bureau of Standards organisations to include consumer protection and product adaptation.

The BLP also recognises that changes in the international business environment requires adjustments based on securing and exploiting Barbados' comparative advantages. The following are among the Party's main policies:

- Continue to seek to attract skill-intensive and knowledge-based industries, in addition to labour intensive enterprises.
- Introduce a regime of incentives aimed at attracting industries, such as software development, factoring, health care and research institutions.
- Promote high-level manpower development by:
  - (a) Awarding special scholarships in electronics and industrial engineering, process engineering, production management, international marketing, cost accounting and design.
  - (b) Establishing a Design Centre to promote good craftsmanship, new design and product development in priority areas.
  - (c) Offer special "Artists/Craftsmen in Residence" facilities where international artists and craftsmen may work for specified periods in the course of a year.
- In addition to education and training referred to elsewhere in this Manifesto, promote international exchange of students, teachers, and businessmen and visits abroad by local artists and craftsmen.
- While continuing to support the effort to re-structure problem-plagued sectors, more emphasis will be placed on the development of new techniques which provide the foundation for new economic growth.
- Relieve manufacturers and hoteliers from the payment of all penalties and interest due by them on outstanding arrears of all taxes owed to the Government provided that payment of the arrears is made within one year of the commencement of the necessary legislation.
- Recruit industry specialists to complement the marketing staff of the Export Promotion Corporation.
- Promote counter trade, particularly with countries such as Brazil, which could be used as a source for inexpensive raw material (raw materials account for nearly 50 per cent of all costs in manufacturing in Barbados)
- Continue the promotion of the Twin Plant Concept with Puerto Rico.

## SMALL BUSINESS

The Barbados Labour Party believes that small business activity will provide the basis for future prosperity in that it enshrines values of enterprise, independence of individuals, pride and industry.

The Party's aim has always been to provide the general economic framework within which small business can flourish. However, we recognise that entrepreneurial initiative can sometimes be dampened by inadequate markets. A BLP Government will therefore place great emphasis on marketing for small business.

The Barbados Furniture Trading Company (which numbers 36 small manufacturers among its shareholders and in which Government has invested more than \$1.75 million in capital), is one of many examples of the BLP's commitment to small business. We further propose to:

- Make technical assistance available on a grant basis for franchising and the purchase of new technology.
- Introduce measures to reduce start-up costs, e.g. by loan guarantees, redeemable equity and participative financing arrangements.
- Continue to assist local companies with joint venture and sub-contracting arrangements.
- Free businessmen from administrative constraints which sap innovative ability and competitiveness, e.g. simplifying various rules and regulations.
- Extend programmes offered at the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity to include courses designed to develop local entrepreneurs.
- Further develop the handicraft industry which achieved record sales in 1985/86.
- Continue the support of The Barbados Furniture Trading Company in its thrust into the North American market and elsewhere.
- Continue technical assistance by way of (a) management assistance counselling services and (b) funding of technical assistance attachments overseas.
- Continue to assist in marketing products both within and outside the region.
- Help entrepreneurs to develop new product lines by providing adequate risk capital to start up ventures.
- Promote a special tax regime for small business.
- Make sure that there is proper coordination and publication of all governmental schemes for small business.
- Encourage the introduction of and make available to small businesses modern technology relevant to their needs.



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## OFF-SHORE SERVICES

The development of the Off-Shore business sector is a logical and beneficial complement to the country's efforts in all other spheres to create jobs at home and to earn valuable foreign exchange from abroad.

During the past decade, the BLP has taken significant steps to establish and promote Barbados as an ideal Off-Shore international finance centre.

The basic infrastructure has been provided through the Off-Shore Banking Act, the Shipping Incentives Act, the Shipping Act, the International Business Companies (Exemption from Taxes) Act, the Exempt Insurance Companies Act and the Barbados Foreign Sales Corporations Act.

Some 550 foreign corporations, several insurance and management companies and five off-shore banks with assets of one billion dollars have registered in Barbados.

In the area of exempt insurance, the recent agreement on double taxation between Barbados and the United States and the Exchange of Information Agreement have given the island a competitive advantage in its efforts to attract Exempt Insurance Companies.

The Party therefore will seek to further develop Barbados as a financial and business centre, thereby providing increased employment opportunities for many of our qualified young people. There will be new and increased opportunities for careers in the legal, financial, accounting, insurance and secretarial fields.

The new BLP Government will:

- Review the existing laws as they apply to Off-shore Trusts, with a view to making Barbados a more attractive site for the establishment for these vehicles of financial planning.
- Revise the existing legislation to give the Arbitration Act extra-territorial applicability. The aim will be to encourage international companies to conduct their arbitration hearings on the island, thereby attracting increased tourism, employment opportunities and greater exposure of Barbados to the international business world.
- Revise and upgrade the law relating to the transfer to and from Barbados of corporate domicile, so that international companies of repute can transfer their seat of incorporation when financial and other factors make such a transfer imperative.
- Revise and improve the law as it relates to International Business Companies to further enhance the ability of Barbados to attract International Business Companies, against a background of a changing financial environment in those centres from which we attract most of our Off-shore corporations.
- Continue the process of re-negotiating and updating the island's network of Double Taxation Treaties in an effort to stimulate the investment climate of Barbados.

- Intensify efforts to promote Barbados as an ideal Off-shore destination.
- Create an internal business, social and political climate conducive to maintaining Barbados as an Off-shore centre.
- Ensure that only genuine Off-shore business is conducted and maintain vigilance against the introduction of unsavoury business activities.

## TOURISM

The BLP government, in response to recession in our tourist generating countries and the high value of the United States dollar, embarked on a positive and dynamic programme to bring new life to the tourist industry.

More money was provided to the Board of Tourism to pioneer new sources of visitors from the U.S.A. and other countries. Special measures were introduced to make our beaches safer for visitors and Barbadians alike. Hoteliers were also given over ten million dollars in tax incentives to purchase duty free furniture, equipment and materials for the refurbishing of their properties.

The vigorous programme of registration and classification of hotels has continued and the erection of public beach facilities and kiosks for the sale of goods on the beaches has won public support.

All this helped to improve its product image abroad and to take advantage of the resurgence evidenced by a record number of visitors in the winter season of 1985/86.

### RETIREMENT VILLAGES

The Barbados Labour Party considers that visitors in the category of senior citizens provide a large potential market for Barbados' tourist development.

The BLP will therefore designate areas particularly in the East and North of Barbados for the establishment of life care communities and health care enterprises. Investors will be encouraged to take advantage of special incentives to set up such retirement villages and enterprises, which will also be available to Barbadian residents.

This will be a boost to the development of those areas and will provide a wide range of employment. It is envisaged that residents in such communities would be provided with all services, including help with shopping and preparing meals.

### FUTURE PLANS

The new BLP administration will:

- Improve the levels of assistance to the industry through the Barbados Development Bank and other agencies; and continue the rescheduling of debts due to the Bank and other agencies.



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- Provide further incentives and assistance for ancillary services such as water-sport operations, ground transportation, restaurant and dining facilities, and the music and entertainment industries.
- Further develop underwater trails along the West Coast and create more artificial reefs by sinking old ships to increase the island's attractiveness to divers and underwater enthusiasts.
- Continue to maximise linkages between tourism and other sectors, such as agriculture and fisheries.
- Provide longer term mortgages for those engaged in the industry and its associated ancillary services.
- Institute a plan for pre-clearance and pre-examination by Barbados customs and immigration officials of all passengers bound for Barbados from certain destinations. This will greatly reduce the waiting time at the airport, reduce congestion and allow for quicker clearance for Barbadians and visitors alike.
- Establish a Convention and Meeting Bureau as a medium for marketing Barbados as a destination for such business.
- Provide for additional Convention and meeting facilities at Heywoods in the North which will be complemented by the renovation and refurbishing of the Dover Convention Centre in the South.
- Give assistance to and incentives for the rehabilitation of the Golf Course at Durants and for the construction of sports facilities including tennis squash and swimming. This will be a plus for hotels in the south of Barbados.
- Intensify the development of sports tourism as part of an extensive marketing strategy.
- Continue the development and expansion of marketing strategies tailored specifically for the promotion of small hotels.
- Improve in-bond facilities at both the Grantley Adams Airport and the Bridgetown Harbour. These will be co-ordinated by the Customs Department, the Ministry of Tourism and the Chamber of Commerce, so as to complement the revamped system of duty free shopping recently implemented in Bridgetown.
- Grant further duty free concessions to the tourist industry for equipment and materials for the further refurbishing of tourist accommodation.
- Provide training assistance to the Tourist Industry and pay particular attention to financial management, marketing and personnel development at all levels.
- Intensify the training of the personnel of the Board of Tourism.
- Upgrade public accesses to beaches and improve the services available to users.
- Provide additional beach kiosks to complement the ones at Dover, Heywoods and Holetown. Areas identified are Maxwell, Rockley, Pebbles, Bay Street and Folkestone.
- Provide additional changing, locker, toilet and eating facilities at a number of popular beaches such as Rockley, Pebbles, Brighton, and Folkestone to facilitate the requirements of cruise ship passengers, stay over visitors and Barbadians alike.
- Ensure that greater use will be made of television and other media in order to capture a larger share of the U.S.A. visitor market. The island's reputation for STABILITY, SECURITY and SERENITY will be highlighted.
- Promote greater exposure of our hotel personnel in all categories to international experience.
- Provide in-plant on-the-job training facilities to complement the training being given in the Hotel Division of the Community College.
- Pursue a vigorous programme to educate the public in all aspects of tourism and develop further tourism awareness programmes.
- Continue to expand the teaching of tourism in schools and tertiary institutions.
- Monitor closely the social, cultural and environmental effects of tourism to ensure harmonious relationships between visitors and residents and a healthy climate for the continued development of the industry.
- Institute a code of standards for the industry for improved professional conduct regarding the quality of service offered.
- With the assistance of international aid, prepare a ten year physical tourism Master Plan for the further development of the industry.
- Prepare through the Board of Tourism a five-year tourism marketing plan for the rationalisation of the Board's marketing activities.
- Introduce an operational manual for the Board of Tourism to ensure coordination between the macro-planning of government and the micro-departmental activities of the Board.



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## REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

As a small trading nation, particularly dependent on export trade and services, Barbados must be adequately served by good shipping and air services.

The Party will therefore continue its policy of ensuring maximum utilization of our well developed port and airport facilities by shipping and airline companies.

The first phase of a plan to improve the infra-structure at the Port is in the process of being implemented, and recently, the new modernised and up-to-date cruise ship terminal was opened. This facility will benefit from the intense marketing effort pursued by the Ministry of International Transport and the Board of Tourism to offer Barbados as an attractive base for cruise ship stopovers and for originating cruises.

The Party's policy for the next five years will include:

- Further efforts to publicise Barbados as a country offering excellent port facilities and ancillary services to be a base for cruise ships and with a work force possessing the qualifications and skills for working on cruise ships.
- The development of more specialised facilities at the Port including those needed for Coastal Cruises and Yachts.
- A full-scale review of port charges and operations in order to ensure that our Port remains competitive.
- New equipment to ensure maximum productivity.
- Continued support for the regional shipping service.
- Continuation of the work necessary for the establishment of Free Trade Zones at the Port and Airport.
- Reviewing and simplifying the immigration and customs procedures for the transit of visitors and the handling of goods.

### INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

When the Laker companies collapsed, the BLP Government purchased the remaining shares owned by Laker Airways in Caribbean Airways. This was a bold decision motivated by the necessity to service the demand in Europe for Barbados' tourism. The decision was taken against a background of the international recession which impacted severely on the airline industry and the lack of direct service by foreign airlines from Europe.

Recognising the dependence of the Eastern Caribbean on adequate air services to promote tourism, no effort will be spared to pursue the concept of a regionally owned Eastern Caribbean airline.

Barbados is in the forefront of this movement and studies are now being examined, both at the multilateral level and with interested Eastern Caribbean Governments and also at

the bilateral level with Trinidad and Tobago. Every effort will be made to obtain acceptance of the above idea and its implementation over the next five years.

The BLP will also continue to support LIAT in its objective of providing a reliable economical inter-regional service.

It will safeguard Barbados' air rights and ensure that they are used for the widest possible promotion of Barbados as the ideal holiday and visitor destination.

### SECURITY OF OUR PORTS

World events have proved that there is a growing need to provide increased safety at all ports which cater for international traffic. Barbados is no exception. No matter what emphasis is placed on the development of Barbados as a truly international port of call, the island's reputation, tourist industry and economy could be ruined overnight by one act of terrorism.

Priority will therefore be given to:

- Maximising and tightening security at both ports.
- Making more financial and technical resources available for port safety.
- Increasing training of all personnel concerned with security at the Ports.
- Cooperating with friendly countries in intelligence and counter-intelligence measures.
- Giving full support to international action for the suppression and eradication of terrorism.
- Supporting the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the International Airline Pilots' Association and the International Maritime Consultative Organisation (IMCO) in their efforts to eliminate terrorists' acts aboard aircraft and ships.

## AGRICULTURE

The Party from its early days has consistently given prominence to agriculture – the work of growing crops and rearing livestock – and to all those who earn their living from the land.

Aided and encouraged by the BLP Government, Barbadian farmers have secured notable successes in recent years. Self-sufficiency in whole chicken, fresh pork, fresh milk, tropical vegetables and eggs has been achieved. In addition, there is now near self-sufficiency in onions and peanuts.

The survival of the sugar industry has been secured and with it the jobs of 5,000 or more persons who earn their living from this industry. In addition, the industry has been put on the path of modernisation and improved efficiency. Cotton has been reintroduced as a viable export crop and export markets have been developed in selective fruits, exotic vegetables, flowers and ground provisions.



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## BLP MANIFESTO 1986

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The Barbados Labour Party reaffirms its commitment to the development of a viable agricultural sector, based on modern production systems, and the application of scientific management practices.

The new BLP administration's programme will include:

- The perfection of rotational patterns integrating non-sugar arable crops with sugar cane.
- Continued support and encouragement for the ongoing process of modernisation, the growing and processing of sugar cane and the marketing of its products.
- The gradual rationalisation of crop locations bearing in mind rainfall patterns, soil conditions, irrigation possibilities and the nature of the terrain. In this regard, a special agricultural development programme will be introduced for the Scotland District emphasising fruit crops, tree crops and livestock development.
- The creation of greater opportunities for the young and other suitable persons with an interest in agriculture to acquire training and experience in farm management and to become farm operators either as owners or tenants.
- The expansion of training facilities at the Community College, the Polytechnic and elsewhere for young farmers and agriculturists.
- The introduction of continuing education courses for the upgrading of the skills and knowledge of practising farmers and agriculturists.
- The expansion of technical assistance and extension services to dairy farmers, livestock holders and small farmers.
- The strengthening of technical and support systems within the agricultural sector, including the provision of a centrally located and modern abattoir and the reorganisation of the financial and credit system to the farmer.
- The continuation of the promotion and development of agro-industries.
- Increased production of cherries, flowers, ground provisions, exotic fruits and vegetables for export.
- The placing of greater emphasis on cotton production with simultaneous attention to an improved ginnery.
- The continuation of support for farmers' organisations.

In the new agricultural order, the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation, apart from maintaining its contribution to sugar production, will be equipped with the resources to fulfil its developmental role by pioneering new export crops.

The Barbados Marketing Corporation has been reorganised and restored to new management health, and will,

in addition to its regulatory and market intelligence functions, assist with the marketing of the produce of non-sugar agriculture and the coordination of the activities of private sector agencies, particularly in their export thrust.

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## FISHERIES

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The Barbados Labour Party has devoted considerable resources to modernising and improving fishing facilities during the past ten years. In addition, it has significantly improved the standard of living of fishermen and others involved in the industry.

Early in the life of the new administration the Party will:

- Complete the building of two new fishing harbours at Bridgetown and Speightstown.
- Finish the work now being undertaken at Tent Bay and upgrade the fish landing sites at Consett Bay, at Skeete's Bay and other sites around the island.

Towards the further development of the fishing industry, action will be taken to:

- Initiate through the Insurance Corporation of Barbados a reasonably priced and comprehensive scheme for the insurance of fishing boats and equipment.
- Encourage, support and promote the establishment of fish processing and preservation facilities.
- In co-operation with the Barbados Marketing Corporation, help fish processing companies to further penetrate external markets in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom.
- Provide technical assistance in boat design and the use of non-traditional materials.
- Encourage, through the Barbados Development Bank, the purchase of refrigerated vehicles for transporting and selling fish particularly in the rural areas.
- Continue and expand the training of fishermen in navigation and the use of safety equipment.
- Improve the physical facilities for the handling and display of fish.
- Enhance lending facilities to fishermen for the purchase and repair of boats, purchase and repair of safety equipment and directional and tracking equipment.
- Support the establishment of a fishermen's co-operative which will facilitate the distribution and sale of fish, the purchase of engines, gear, tackle and equipment



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- Ensure that fishermen are brought within the framework of the National Insurance Scheme so that they can have some form of financial security.
- Expand the range of duty-free concessions to the fishing industry.
- Undertake research to assist in the location of new fishing banks.
- Undertake further studies on the feasibility of establishing fish farming as an industry in Barbados and encourage its early development.
- Enter into a number of fishing agreements with interested Caribbean Countries.

## ENERGY

Without energy in its many forms – gas, diesel, oil, electricity, or solar power, no modern society can function efficiently. For countries which import oil, the energy bill is high and represents a major drain on foreign exchange earnings.

Barbados is fortunate to have modest reserves of oil and natural gas. Our island is equally fortunate in having a natural setting for the provision of solar power and wind power.

The Party, during the last ten years, has vigorously explored and developed our oil and natural gas resources. In addition, it has given substantial encouragement to the solar power industry and is giving more attention to wind power as a source of energy.

In 1983, the Barbados Labour Party Government, through the National Petroleum Corporation, purchased shares, fixed assets, equipment, materials and supplies of Mobil Oil subsidiaries involved in drilling for oil at Woodbourne.

It will continue the exploration of crude oil and natural gas.

Since the take over of Mobil, the production of crude oil and natural gas has increased from 379,600 barrels of oil and 21,300,000 cubic feet of gas in 1983 to 679,200 barrels of oil and 33,500,000 cubic feet of gas in 1985.

### PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT

The re-elected BLP Government will continue:

- To expand the domestic oil and natural gas output including further exploration activities.
- To increase the use of natural gas in industrial production and electricity generation.
- The construction of a liquefied petroleum plant.
- To make a major investment in new transmission lines, thus dramatically expanding the delivery of natural gas

to a greater number of domestic consumers in Barbados.

- To provide price stability and security of supply to consumers of energy.
- To monitor developments in the world's energy markets to ensure that consumers in Barbados benefit from any further reductions in energy costs.
- To participate with interested Caribbean governments in integrating energy policies and development.

### ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

The BLP will continue its efforts to encourage and develop the use of alternative sources of energy. The Party will:

- Give further encouragement to the Solar Water Heating industry for its further development for domestic and industrial heating.
- Further develop and extend the use of wind power as an energy source based on experience gained from the pilot project at Lamberts, St. Lucy.
- Further develop the use of bagasse for the production of electricity for the national grid. The viability of using municipal solid waste will also be investigated.

### CONSERVATION

The Party will:

- Improve energy efficiency in the sugar and transportation industries.
- Undertake energy audits in buildings with excessive energy patterns.
- Implement a comprehensive national energy plan based on data collected across the country and from the energy sector.
- Intensify efforts to improve efficiency in the use of energy on the road, at the farm, the home, the office, the workshop and at all other places where energy is consumed.
- Include in the proposed Building Code energy conservation regulations.



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### TRANSPORT AND WORKS

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The Barbados Labour Party believes that an efficient and modern road system is essential to the economic and social development of the country. Thus it has paid particular attention to the improvement and upgrading of our road network and the overall improvement of public transport.

The centre-piece of the road improvement plan will be a new 20.6 kilometre super highway linking the various industrial estates to the Grantley Adams International Airport and the Bridgetown Harbour. The highway will be basically a two-lane facility with three and four lane sections as follows:

Section 1 – Spring Garden Roundabout to Highway 5 near Wonder Bakeries, Haggatt Hall.

Section 2 – The junction near B.E.T. Building to Top Rock via Graeme Hall.

Section 3 – Warners to the Airport (via Kingsland, Lowland and Coverley).

Work is in progress on the 11.3 kilometre Northern-access Road between Greenland, St. Andrew and Checker Hall, St. Lucy.

The re-elected BLP Government will continue to improve the road network through maintenance/rehabilitation and highway safety works. It will also strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Transport & Works to manage road maintenance and rehabilitation projects efficiently and to reduce transportation costs.

It will carry out rehabilitation work on roads linking Warners to Sturges, Canewood to the Belle Gully Junction, Haggatt Hall to Six Cross roads and to Highway 7. The Party will then proceed with three other major road sections from Warrens to Mile-and-a-Quarter, Salters Junction to Turnpike and Carmichael Road to Belle Road.

The Party has completed over 110 subsidiary/tenantry roads during the last five years and will continue this programme until every subsidiary tenantry road in this country is brought to a satisfactory state of repair.

#### PRIORITIES

A new BLP administration will have the following among its top priorities for the Ministry of Transport and Works:

- To continue a Scotland Area project to improve the existing road network within the area.
- To commission a study of the transportation system, including rationalisation of the mini buses, the fleet strength of the Transport Board and the institutional strengthening of the Transport Board.
- To continue to improve the management and efficiency of the Transport Board.

- To erect a new Transport Board Headquarters including management offices, workshops, parts department and bus storage facilities.
- Making adequate arrangements for drainage as part of the intensified programme of road construction.

The drive to upgrade the comfort of passengers using the bus service will be continued by the new BLP administration. The Fairchild Street Bus Terminal will be fully operational with the completion of the public hall, staff facilities and 32 vendors' booths. The operation of the River Road Bus Stand will eventually be incorporated into the project. The Speightstown Bus Terminal will also be completed early in the life of the new BLP administration.

The mini bus operations at Jubilee Gardens and Princess Alice Highways will be amalgamated into a proposed new terminal west of the General Post Office. This new ultra-modern terminal facility will serve the northern routes.

### UTILITIES

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The Barbados Labour Party has always believed that the process of public utility regulation constitutes one of the most powerful mechanisms for the maintenance of democracy in a mixed economy such as ours.

The Party believes that in this way, the consumer is able to question the monopoly utility, and through the regulatory process, which involves price fixing by an independent adjudicating body, to monitor the prices charged by the utility for the service it provides.

The Barbados Labour Party has always been in the vanguard in the process of developing the regulation of public utilities in this island, and the Party considers that the Public Utility Act Cap. 282 passed in 1951 by the Barbados Labour Party is now in need of reform to take account of modern developments in the regulatory process. A study has already been completed.

The Party therefore makes the following proposals:

- To amend the Public Utility Act, after consultation with the utilities, to give the Board greater flexibility in determining applications for rate increases and monitoring the practices of, and level of services and charges made by the utility companies.
- To increase and broaden the panel of technical advisors to the Board so that the Board will be better able to carry out its functions.

The BLP recognises that while water, electricity and telephone services now reach almost every home in Barbados, a small number of households is still in need of some of these services.

A new BLP administration will ensure that proper facilities reach every single dwelling in Barbados and in cases of need



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will assist in the installation of water and electricity. A fund will be provided so that in all cases Barbadian home users who do not have water borne toilet facilities will have easy access to such services on reasonable terms.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Ten years ago, the Barbados Labour Party began its second period of government determined to continue the infrastructural work which is a necessary plank for economic progress and national development.

### BRIDGETOWN

In the spirit of building for the future, the BLP will, very early in the life of the new administration, bring to fruition the Carlisle Bay Development Project which will add a new dimension to the amenities of historic Bridgetown.

The re-development covers the areas between the Pier Head and Needham's Point. There will be improved infrastructure for the creation of a pedestrian mall linking a variety of commercial, social and cultural facilities. Specifically, it is proposed to erect a promenade along the beach frontage to the Grand Bay Hotel, formerly Holiday Inn.

The entire project will combine extensive urban renewal with expanded tourist and business activity and increased economic benefits to the country in general.

In addition, an urban development project, already started in New Orleans, will aim at further improving recreational and other facilities in that area, while the Bridgetown Water-front development (including the proposed marina) and the Bridgetown Fisheries Project will contribute significantly to activity in the City.

Other elements of the BLP's plan for Bridgetown include highlighting the Lower Green as a tranquil area flanked by the proposed National Art Gallery (referred to under Culture in this Manifesto), the City Church of St. Mary's and the century-old Barbados Mutual Building.

The Party will transform the Jubilee Garden Bus Stand into an urban garden which will permit traffic to circulate freely around the area. The markets at Fairchild Street and Cheapside will be re-designed and upgraded.

The BLP's plans for the Empire Theatre, for two ultra modern Bus Terminals – one of which is nearing completion, for extensive renovations and additions to Queens College and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and for the erection of a new Supreme Court complex, are mentioned elsewhere in this Manifesto. A new headquarters for the Barbados Development Bank is under construction at Marshall Hall at Hinks and Cowell Streets.

The Party will also complete the renovation of the Houses of Parliament as the nation prepares to celebrate the 350th Anniversary of Parliament in 1989.

The BLP will lend its blessing to the plan by the Jewish Community to restore the Synagogue – the second oldest in the Western Hemisphere – and which is an essential part of the history of Bridgetown.

The housing development at Kensington Lodge will be joined by others at Pondside and Greenfield and the Party will complete the Church Village redevelopment programme.

The provision of adequate parking facilities, including a multi-storey facility for Bridgetown, will be an important priority for the new BLP administration.

### OTHER AREAS

The Party also intends to redevelop the entire area bounded by Graeme Hall and Highway 7, involving the planning of a Park in the eastern and western sections of the Graeme Hall Swamp and the improvement of the road systems to tie in with the construction of the Airport to West Coast Highway. The development will be so designed as not to disturb the area's natural features and to encourage the bird sanctuary which has established itself there.

The BLP regards the South Coast sewerage system as a priority. Planning of this project is far advanced and is reaching the stage of implementation. Sewerage treatment plants are also planned for the West Coast and greater Bridgetown areas.

The Glebe project in St. George and the East Coast Park, referred to in our 1981 Manifesto are now in the stage of implementation.

Preliminary surveys have been carried out to determine the extent to which Harrison's Cave should be extended. External sources of finance and assistance will be tapped to further develop this breath-taking phenomenon. Attention will also be focussed on other areas around Barbados. Underwater parks will be developed around the coast where feasible.

## THE ENVIRONMENT

The BLP's proposals for the Department of the Environment which was established on October 1, 1984, include:

- Steps to halt erosion of beaches, and to ensure that the coastal area retains its pivotal role in the Barbados economy and as a recreation facility. The planned sewerage schemes for the South and West Coasts and greater Bridgetown are part of the action plan.
- Action to be continued against the major sources of pollution along the coast of Barbados.
- The commitment to the preservation of marine life will be pursued and additional trails similar to that at Folkestone Beach will be erected.



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- The use whenever feasible, of purified water from the Sewerage Systems to irrigate avenues of trees and plants in the City and suburban developments.
- The monitoring of the synthetic seaweed project at Rockley Beach and, if successful, its extension to all other beaches where erosion is evident.
- A land use management plan which will be implemented in order to reduce the risk of severe environmental damage in areas where there are chemicals or other hazardous material.
- Encouragement for the establishment of industries for re-cycling waste material.
- Increased surveillance against oil pollution in the light of the establishment of a super-tanker terminal in St. Lucia and the general passage of oil tankers off our shores.
- Ratification of certain International Maritime Organisation Conventions on oil pollution.
- Ensuring that there is an on-going programme of debushing to keep gullies and water-courses clear.
- Continuing the programme of well-cleaning and sinking of new wells in strategic locations.
- Ensuring that proper drainage accompanies new construction.
- Improvement of existing drainage conditions. Work has commenced on the problems of drainage at Wotton and Speightstown and an engineering study of drainage and flooding in the Garrison, Harts Gap, Pleasant Hall and St. Matthias areas is in progress. The recommendations of the experts will be studied and implemented.
- A feasibility study on the establishment of a crematorium and the refurbishing of cemeteries will be carried out with technical assistance. The views of the Ministry of Health and the religious bodies on this project will be fully taken into account.
- Improvement of the Sanitation Service.
- Consultation on a regular basis with and seeking the advice of the Barbados National Trust, the Caribbean Conservation Association and the Town Planners' Society on all aspects of physical planning and the development and preservation of the environment.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### INFORMATION

A BLP Government will seek during the next five years to create enhanced strategies and mechanisms to make all Barbadians better informed on the many developments taking place around them as well as creating further opportunities for the articulation of views and the exchange of ideas on matters which affect them.

The present BLP administration, with its commitment to the free flow of information and to the provision of opportunities for the expression of varying points of view, has advanced Barbados from a country in which there was a single tightly controlled wireless broadcast station owned by the Government and a wired radio network owned by an outside interest.

Today the Government's Corporation operates two radio stations in competition with the wired network and two other wireless stations, all private sector owned.

As our people have become more prosperous the demand for greater choice has now grown to embrace not only radio but television. As a result of the BLP's response to this demand, special attention will be devoted to public education and information programmes. Emphasis will also be placed on informing all segments of the population on the large number of Government services provided to bring relief to the aged, the handicapped, the sick and the unemployed.

In pursuance of its policies of encouraging more open government and greater accountability and of promoting the idea that a well informed public is critical to a flourishing democracy, a BLP Government will:

- Assist in training persons from all sectors of the media in the techniques of communications.
- After consultation with interests representing the Civil Service, the media and other public and private bodies, introduce a Freedom of Information Act. Bi-partisan support will be sought for this measure which will be sent to a joint select Committee of the House and the Senate before its final passage through Parliament.

### BROADCASTING

Early in the life of a new BLP administration, CBC will provide for Barbadians four additional channels of television for their education, information and entertainment. An important adjunct to these four new channels of satellite programming will be the creation and production of high quality local programmes. New and exciting opportunities will be provided for many Barbadians to give expression to their creative talents as the Corporation strengthens its programme production capability.

To improve the quality of local TV programming, there will, for example, be:

- More live outside broadcasts.
- More exposure of local dramatic productions.



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- The introduction of AM-TV with a morning programme bringing viewers a mixed format of news, views, interviews, sports, weather, etc.
- Expansion of the recently introduced satellite delivered news exchange between Trinidad and Barbados to include Jamaica, and to include major news, sports, political and entertainment events.

In July 1984, the current BLP administration gave to the young people of Barbados, Radio Liberty FM. It has become the nation's young people's station with a growing following among other age groups. All Barbadians can look forward to an expansion of the broadcast hours of Radio-Liberty under the new BLP Government.

In our next five year term, the BLP will:

- Introduce an advertising code applicable to all media houses and advertising agencies.
- Create a CBC Production Company to produce, market and distribute Barbadian and Caribbean video and audio cassettes of radio and TV programming.

## POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS

Since June 1981, the Ministry of Information assumed responsibility for the postal services. This Department was provided with new and modern physical facilities at Cheap-side equipped with a highly mechanised sorting office and parcel post department.

The re-elected Barbados Labour Party administration will divide the island into seven districts each with a regional post office. It will replace some of the existing district post offices and add new ones to the network.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Recognising that a modern and efficient network of telecommunications is essential to economic growth and development, and recognising further the fundamental impact which the marriage of computer and satellite technology has had on the telecommunications industry, the present BLP administration took steps to ensure that both at public sector level and private sector level, Barbadians were given adequate say on the organisation and development of our telecommunications services.

This policy led to the establishment of the Barbados External Telecommunications Company in which Government and private sector interests are shareholders with Cable & Wireless. It also led to a rational basis for the sharing of revenues from overseas telephone calls between the BET as the external carrier and the Barbados Telephone Company as the local carrier.

In view of the fact that technological change has brought the areas of operation of the two carriers close together and introduced areas of overlap, the new BLP administration will continue its series of policy initiatives and against the background of the best available advice ensure that the best arrangements are put in place so that Barbadians may continue to enjoy the greatest possible benefits from the communications revolution.

The BLP will constantly monitor rates and tariff policies to protect the public interest.

## EDUCATION

The BLP believes that the need to narrow the gap between education and training is most urgent.

The Party recognises that in an age of rapid technological change, many workers will have to change jobs and be re-trained periodically during their working lives. The BLP therefore considers that a policy of continuing education will bring about better coordination between youth and adult education, manpower training and labour market requirements.

The re-elected BLP Government will continue to give its full attention to:

- Equipping laboratories for the teaching of natural science.
- Upgrading industrial arts workshops.
- Facilitating the teaching of arts and crafts, agricultural sciences and computer technology.
- Promoting the production of educational material for use in schools, other learning institutions and as part of the continuing Education Programme. If necessary, incentives will be given to institutions such as the UWI, BIMAP, BAPO, BAMP, the Bar Association, the BWU Labour College and the B.E.C. to produce video and audio cassettes for use in Barbados and elsewhere as part of this programme of continuing education. An export industry of educational material will be encouraged.

In keeping with its policy of maintaining a fair and equitable basis for admission to secondary schools, the Barbados Labour Party proposes to review the Common Entrance Examination. Consideration will be given to the introduction at an early date of an aptitude test for all primary school children in their own setting.

For children who do not now find options in technical, vocational and artistic subject areas available in the CXC, a Barbados School Leaving Certificate will be awarded at 16 years.

Close cooperation and dialogue will be maintained between the public and the private sectors in providing vocational guidance and counselling as part of the preparation process of school leavers for the world of work.

In fulfilling the existing demands for secondary school places the new BLP administration will commence work on the construction of the Wotton Secondary School in Christ Church. Upon completion, this school will accommodate 1000 students and this means that there will then be school places in secondary schools for every eligible child.

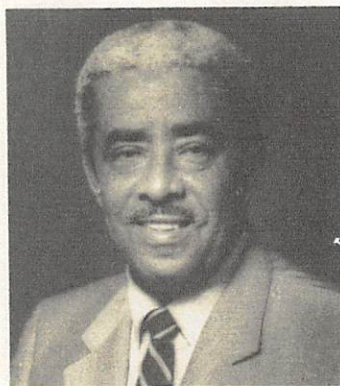


**PROFILES  
OF  
YOUR  
BLP CANDIDATES**





## BLP MANIFESTO 1986



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(St. Michael South)  
**CRAIG**  
Lionel Seymour  
Age: 57

Educated at Roebuck Boys' School and Barbados Academy; Insurance Underwriter with Manufacturer's Life Insurance Company for 20 years; Member of Canadian Life Underwriters Association and Founder President of the Life Underwriters Association of Barbados; Member of Parliament since 1966; Minister of Labour and Community Services (1976-81) and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House 1981-85; Minister of Information, Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House since 1985.

Now a fourth time M.P., Lionel Craig, one of the BLP's chief spokesmen, is well-known both for his livewire charisma on the platform and for his outspokenness on any issue.

A man of commitment and dedication, Lionel Craig is renowned for his fearless and unending support of the needy, and is a strong agitator for their welfare. As Minister of Housing and Lands he played an important part in the piloting of one of the most significant pieces of social legislation of our time - The Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act which provides tenants with the right to purchase the lots on which they live. This achievement has been recognised and praised in news reports far beyond our Caribbean borders.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(City of Bridgetown)  
**MILLER**  
Billie Antoinette  
Age: 42

Educated at Belair Junior School, Queen's College, Durham University and Gray's Inn, where she qualified as a Barrister-at-Law.

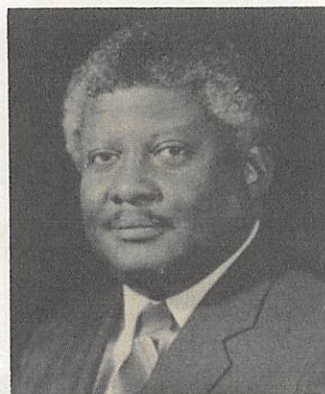
She has been Secretary/Treasurer of the Barbados Bar Association; Council Member of the Barbados Family Planning Association; Member of the International Federation of Women Lawyers; Legal Advisor to Women in Action.

Billie Miller has been the Member of Parliament for Bridgetown since her stunning bye-election victory in May 1976. She was Minister of Health and National Insurance during the 1976-1981 BLP Administration and has been Minister of Education during the 1981-1986 Administration.

The outstanding qualities which made her a highly respected and successful Minister of Health and National Insurance and subsequently Minister of Education have assured her a place in the records of political administrations in Barbados.

She has emerged as an astute and tenacious politician, totally committed to public responsibility. She has attracted the highest praise at the numerous regional and international conferences at which she has represented her country.

Billie Miller is a woman of whom all Barbadians and women everywhere can feel justifiably proud.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(St. James North)  
**BARROW**  
Nigel Ansley  
Age: 49

Educated at St. Jude's Boys' School; Lodge School; University College of the West Indies (B.A. Upper Second Class Honours in History); School of International Affairs, Columbia University; University of the West Indies Faculty of Law (LLB Upper Second Class Honours); Member of the Senate 1966-1971, 1976-; Leader of the Senate 1979-1985; Minister without Portfolio 1978-1979; Minister of Information and Communications 1979-1981; Minister of Information and Culture 1981-1985; Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade since 1985.

Nigel Barrow has made contributions to many aspects of Barbados' development as a teacher, journalist, diplomatic trainee in the Federal Government, Leader of the Senate and a Minister of Government. A stalwart member of the Barbados Labour Party whose administrative and planning skills are respected by his colleagues, he was instrumental in the planning and management of the 1971 and 1981 general elections campaigns. He has approached the administration of his various portfolios with this same attention to detail and in 1984 oversaw the establishment of the Barbados External Telecommunications Company in which the Government of Barbados is a substantial shareholder. In his maiden speech at the United Nations, in his capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs, he impressed the international audience with a forceful speech which left no doubt as to Barbados' position on apartheid and other international issues.

Nigel Barrow looks forward to serving the people of St. James North as their parliamentary representative and pledges to expand the development of the north already stated by the Barbados Labour Party Government.



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**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(St. Michael South-East)  
**BRADSHAW**  
DeLisle Othneil  
Age: 45

Educated at Hothersal Junior School; Industry High School; the Modern High School; Huddersfield Technical College, Yorkshire, England; Life Underwriter (1966-72); Headmaster Kay's Academy (1975-76); Member of Parliament for St. Michael South East since 1976; Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry (1976-81); Ministry of Housing and Lands (1981-83); Minister of Labour, Social Security and Sports (1983-85); Minister of Labour Community Development, Women's Affairs, Youth Affairs and Sports 1985 to date.

During the last session of Parliament, DeLisle Bradshaw was assigned several Ministerial posts which he has served with dedication and distinction. His love of sports and general interest in the advancement of youth has resulted in an accord to build a \$20M. gymnasium and the establishment and development of a Skills Training Programme.

As a representative, DeLisle Bradshaw has gained the highest respect of his constituents who recognise his commitment to their cause. His unanimous appointment as Patron of Pinelands Creative Workshop is but a symbol of the people's appreciation of his struggle for their progress.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(St. George North)  
**ODLE**  
Jack Gordon  
Age: 59

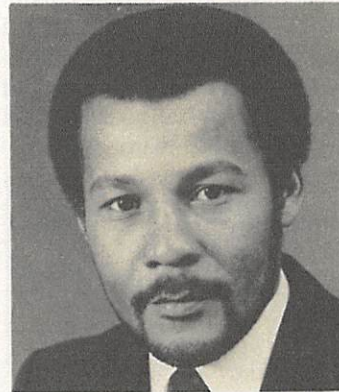
Educated at Workmans Junior School; St. George Boys' School; The Barbados Academy; Sir George Williams University, Montreal, Canada (B.Sc.); University of Toronto; First President, West Indies Society (Sir George William University); Quality Control Chemist, Toronto; Director, West Indian Suppliers Ltd., Member of Parliament for St. George North since 1976 (1976-1986); Chairman of Committees, House of Assembly (1976-1986); Justice of the Peace.

As Chairman of Committees, Jack Odle won the respect of members on both sides of the House of Assembly, not only for his knowledge of parliamentary practice and proce-

dures, but for his impartiality and good humor.

His care and concern for the people of his constituency are manifested in his relentless quest for better facilities and opportunities. These pleas have not been left unanswered. The new tenantry roads at Gun Hill, Thorpes Cottage, Newbury, Salters, Parish Land and Cottage (now in progress) give testimony to his efforts. Shortly, Applewhaites Tenantry and Lower Estate Tenantry will join the long list of areas undergoing road construction.

The massive development project at The Glebe will also open opportunities for the young in the constituency.



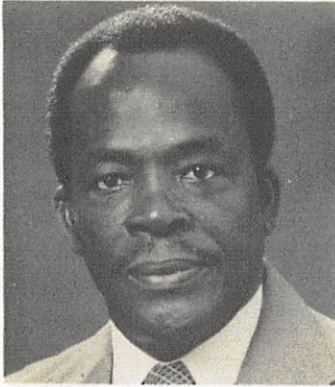
**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(St. Peter)  
**ARTHUR**  
Owen Seymour  
Age: 36

Educated at All Saints Boys' School; Coleridge and Parry on Government Scholarship; University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, B.Sc. (Econ.); University of the West Indies, Mona, M.Sc. (Econ.); National Planning Agency in Jamaica (Chief Economic Planner); Director of Economics, Jamaica Bauxite Institute 1979-81; Member of Board of Directors of Jamaica's Scientific Research Council; Represented Jamaica on UNCTAD's Inter-Governmental Group of Experts on the Transfer of Technology, 1975 and 1976; Member of the OAS Task Force on Technology Transfer in the Caribbean and a member of the Caribbean Technology Policy Studies Project, 1977-78; Chief Project Analyst, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Government of Barbados 1981; Co-ordinator of 1983-88 Development Plan; Member of National Economic Council, Barbados; Member of Board of Directors of Barbados Central Bank; Chairman of Agricultural Development Corporation of Barbados; Consultant to Ministry of Housing on National Housing Project; Research Fellow, Institute of Social and Economic Research, U.W.I. Cave Hill 1983-84; Member of the Barbados Senate 1983-84; Member of Parliament since January 1985; Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance since 1985.

With a history of academic and practical experience, Owen Arthur demonstrated from his first speech on the Budgetary Proposals in 1985 that he has the ability to articulate responsibly on any area of finance. He is a representative of whom all St. Peter should be proud as he is a shining example of achievement and represents the resource, ability and commitment required for the 21st Century.



# BLP MANIFESTO 1986



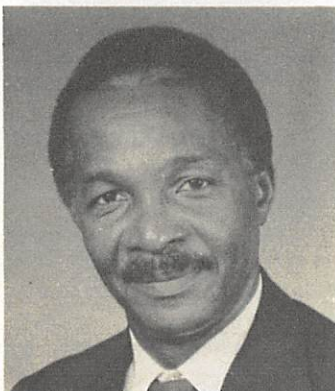
**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
**(St. Andrew)**  
**BRATHWAITE**  
**Lloyd Beresford**  
**Age: 61**

Educated at St. Patrick's Boys' School and Rural Studio, Christ Church; Correspondence Courses with Wolsey Hall; Sugar Chemist; Real Estate Agent; Member, National Executive, Barbados Labour Party; Member of Parliament since 1976; Minister of Communications and Works (1976-79); Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs (1979-81); Minister of Health 1981-83; Minister of Housing and Lands (1983 to date).

L.B. Brathwaite is an articulate and dynamic constituency representative and a Cabinet Minister who has represented Barbados with distinction abroad.

Included in his many projects as Housing Minister, is a plan to build 526 homes at West Terrace, St. James – a scheme which has been labelled as a historic union between the public and private sectors. His Pondsides Project in St. Michael and Maynard Development Scheme in St. Peter will provide a total of 86 additional units for residents in the respective areas.

L.B. Brathwaite's management of the N.H.C. has been commendable especially in encouraging tenants to keep pace with rents so that the recycling funds may go towards improving the housing stock.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
**(St. Joseph)**  
**BOLDEN**  
**Charles Lindsay**  
**Age: 55**

Educated at Society Mixed School; Combermere School; London University, LL.B. (Hons.); Barrister-at-Law (Inner Temple); Farmer and Civil Servant; Private practice in Barbados 1964-76; Minister of Agriculture Food and Consumer Affairs (1976-78); Minister of Communications and Works (1978-81); Deputy Speaker (1981-84); Speaker (1984-86).

"All I can say about the honourable member of St. Joseph.....is that we can find no fault with him" — statement by the Leader of the Opposition on September 4, 1984 when seconding a motion for Lindsay Bolden to be Speaker

of the House. This portrait of honesty and integrity gives expression to a feeling shared by all other parliamentarians and the people of St. Joseph.

In keeping with his commitment to his constituents, Lindsay Bolden has secured the construction of the new St. Joseph Primary School, the extension of the Grantley Adams Memorial School and the provision of a new water link to serve the village of St. Elizabeth and surrounding areas. His innovative project, The Tent Bay Development fishing harbour, will be a source of pride and comfort to the fishing industry in the parish.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
**(St. Michael North-West)**  
**WILLIAMS**  
**John Ellis David**  
**Age: 36**

Educated at Welches Mixed School; Combermere School; Harrison College; University of the West Indies (B.Sc. Upper Second Class Honours); Middlesex Technical College; Cable & Wireless Technical College – Full Technological Certificate (1975); Civil Servant (1976-78); Engineer with Cable & Wireless (W.I.) Limited 1968-83; Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office since 1983, and Senator since 1981.

John Williams has demonstrated during the last Parliamentary session that he is a skilled debater with an all-round grasp of Governmental matters. He brings to his constituents a combination of youth, experience and academic achievement along with dedication and a capacity for hard work.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
**(Christ Church East)**  
**CHELTENHAM**  
**Richard Lionel**  
**Age: 44**

Educated at St. Patrick's Boys' School; Boys' Foundation School; University of the West Indies (B.Sc.Econ.); McGill University (M.Sc. Government); Manchester University (Ph.D); and Gray's Inn (Barrister-at-Law).

Member of Parliament for Christ Church East since 1976,



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"Johnny" Cheltenham has been an energetic and effective Chairman of the Barbados Labour Party.

He also served from 1976-81 as Chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation and the Board of Trustees of BIMAP.

Brought into the Cabinet in 1981, he has built up an impressive record of achievement as Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs.

Touch, tenacious and outspoken, he has won the respect of the agricultural community and wider public for promoting the cause of non-sugar agriculture and making Barbados self-sufficient in a number of vegetables, saving the country valuable foreign exchange.

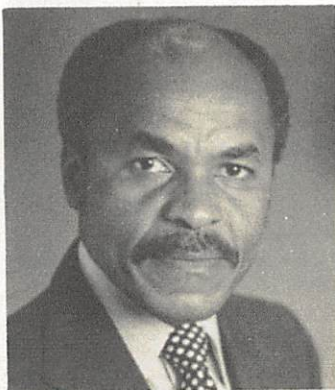


**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(St. Michael East)  
**LYNCH**

**John Richard Arlington**  
Age: 32

Educated at Bay Primary Boys' School; The Lodge School; Coopers & Lybrand Chartered Accountants 1971-76 A.C.C.A.; Lecturer at the Barbados Community College 1973-83; Lecturer at the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity 1978-83; Member of the National Insurance Board since 1981; Chairman of the Transport Board since 1985.

Richard Lynch is an example of the Barbados Labour Party's commitment to blend youth and experience. As Chairman of the Transport Board, Richard Lynch became one of the youngest persons to head a major statutory corporation and thereby demonstrates the Party's pledge of involving our youth in decision-making policies at the national level.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(St. Michael West-Central)  
**JOHNSON**

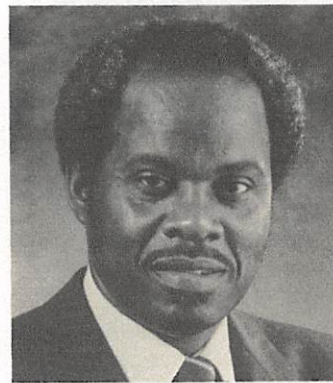
**Victor**  
Age: 50

Educated at Boscobel Boys' School; The Coleridge and Parry School; New York College of Medical and Dental Health Technology (Diploma); Long Island University (B.A.); New York University (M.A.); Lecturer New York University,

City University of New York, Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity; Member of Parliament for St. Michael West (1976 to date); Chairman Barbados Marketing Corporation (1976-1981); Minister of Labour and Social Security and Sport (1981-1984); Minister of Communications and Works (1984 to date).

Vic Johnson possesses an appetite for bringing comfort to the needs of the poor and less privileged in our society. His tenantry roads programme has made a significant impact in improving the well-being of those citizens whose social lives were stifled by improper communication. The several highways now under construction will provide the infrastructural platform for our industrial programmes and chart the forward course to the 21st century.

He is a persuasive public speaker whose close attention to constituency matters is imprinted in the streets of Black Rock and on the pastures of Belfield.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(St. George South)  
**TULL**

**Louis Randall**  
Age: 48

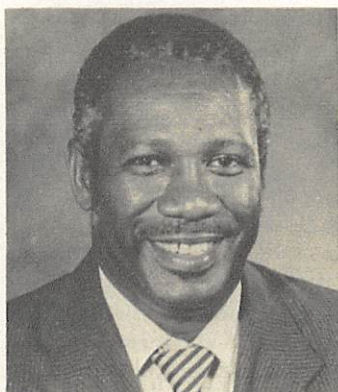
Educated at St. Giles Boys' School; Harrison College; University of Manitoba (B.A. First Class Honours in Classics); Canadian Government Scholarship to St. John's College, Oxford University (M.A.); Barrister-at-Law (Inner Temple); Member of the Senate 1971-1976; Member of Parliament since 1976; Minister of Education and Culture 1976-1981; Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs 1981-1985; Minister of Trade, Commerce and Consumer Affairs since 1985.

Louis Tull's responsibility for managing the affairs of the country has grown steadily since his election to the House of Assembly in 1976. His many contacts on the international scene forged during his tenure as Minister of Foreign Affairs placed him in a strong position to attract industrial investment to the island during his stewardship of the Ministry of Trade and Commerce. Louis Tull recognises the importance of industrial development to the growth of Barbados and is confident that Barbadians under the Barbados Labour Party, are capable of the regeneration of this key sector which will ensure a secure future for the country.

As a dedicated and attentive representative, the start of the Glebe Development, which will serve both St. George constituencies, is a project close to Louis Tull's heart in his goal of improving the physical amenities in his constituency.



# BLP MANIFESTO 1986



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(Christ Church  
West-Central)  
**TROTMAN**  
O'Brien  
Age: 44

Educated at St. Patrick's Primary School and Boys' Foundation School; Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office 1976-81; Minister without Portfolio 1981-83; Minister of State 1983-84; Minister of Health since 1984; Senator since 1976.

O'Brien Trotman has been very active in Church Affairs and Community Work, especially among the youth. He was Secretary and President of Crusaders' Youth Group, Vice President of the Barbados Youth Council and has also served on the Caribbean Assembly of Youth.

He worked in the Public Service from 1966-69. O'Brien Trotman was also an ardent Trade Unionist having served as Assistant General Secretary of the Public Service Association and as General Secretary of the National Union of Public Workers. A man dedicated to improving the lot of the poor and under-privileged, he freely gives of his time and energy in assisting those who are less fortunate.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(St. Philip North)  
**GRIFFITH**  
George  
Age: 37

Educated at St. Catherine's Mixed School, the Technical Institute, the School of Nursing and University of the West Indies (Mona Campus).

He graduated as a Registered Mental Nurse (R.M.N.) in 1961, completed the Certificate in Social Work in 1976 and graduated from the University of West Indies with a B.Sc degree in 1978.

During his working life he has been a Youth and Community Development Officer, A Welfare Officer at the Government Industrial School, and Assistant Director of the National Assistance Board.

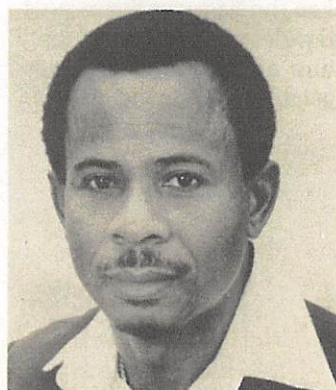
George has an impressive record of service to the aged, the disabled, the poor, disadvantaged and youth in his native St. Philip.

No less impressive is his record of service to voluntary

and sporting organisations. He has represented Barbados as an athlete and set the half marathon record.

A life-long supporter of the BLP, he has served as Assistant General Secretary and Vice Chairman.

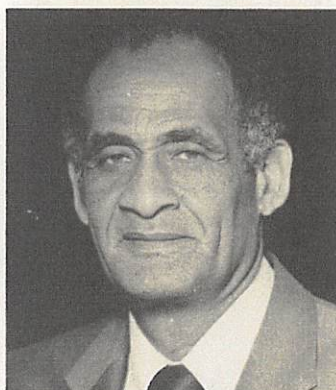
George Griffith is committed to bringing the same energies which distinguished him as an outstanding sportsman, to the race to bring St. Philip North home for the BLP.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(St. Michael West)  
**NASSAR**  
Muhammed  
Age: 45

Barbadians with an interest in entrepreneurial achievement will remember the success story of the 1960's when Muhammed Nassar, then named Gary Husbands, directed his energies in building a business enterprise. With only an education at St. Giles Boys' School, the talented young man from Tweedside Road in Carrington Village, welded ambition and determination that brought success to him and encouragement to many other young entrepreneurs.

Having established Husbands Wrought Iron, Muhammed Nassar used his experience and management skills to create a niche in the business world to extol his forthright views about business practices in Barbados, the underprivileged and the youth – three areas which he holds dear.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(St. Lucy)  
**BRATHWAITE**  
Roy Edison  
Age: 56

Educated at St. Lucy's Boys' School and privately; Former Deputy Chairman National Housing Corporation; First Vice Chairman Barbados Labour Party 1979-1981; Member of the Senate 1979-1981, Member of Parliament since 1981; Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly since 1984.

A vigorous representative of the people of St. Lucy, Roy Brathwaite has brought a refreshing candour to debates in the House of Assembly with his common sense approach to the problems and solutions of development in his constituency.



## BLP MANIFESTO 1986

St. Lucy has seen tremendous development during his term as its representative including the Arawak Cement Plant, new recreational facilities at River Bay, five new playing fields, new roads, the development of land for house spots at Checker Hall and extended water, electricity and transportation services.

Roy Brathwaite wishes to see further housing development in his constituency as well as the more traditional housing area for those who cannot yet afford to own their own homes.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(St. Michael North)  
**GRIFFITH**  
Clyde Athelbert  
Age: 45

Educated at St. Leonard's Boys' School; St. Leonard's Secondary School; Modern High School; City University of New York, B.Sc. (Accounting); St. John's University, New York, M.B.A. (Marketing); General Secretary of the Barbados Labour Party 1983-86; Consul General for Barbados in New York 1977-81; Senator since 1981; Parliamentary Secretary for Energy and National Resources in the Ministry of Finance and Planning 1981-83; Minister of State (Planning, Energy and Natural Resources) 1983-85; Minister of State (Planning) since 1985.

Clyde Griffith has distinguished himself as a shrewd financier with an acute ability to organise and execute programmes on a massive scale. His active involvement in community life in New York has been rewarded with several citations and awards for community service.

Under his Ministerial guidance and direction, Barbados' oil and natural gas resources have been extensively exploited to the extent that there has been a significant saving in the country's oil imports.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(St. Michael Central)  
**TRUSS**  
Aaron  
Age: 39

Educated at the Barbados Academy; Côte des Neiges Commercial College, Montreal; Ryerson Polytechnical Insti-

tute, Toronto; Managing Director of House of Fabrics Ltd., and Superior Plastics Limited; General Secretary, Barbados Labour Party 1974-75; 1979-81. Director of the Transport Board 1976-78; Member of the Senate 1976-81; Member of Parliament since 1981; Chairman of the National Petroleum Corporation 1982-84; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office 1984-85; Minister of Tourism and the Environment 1985 to date.

Much of Aaron Truss' invaluable contribution to Barbados has been in the form of social work. A Director of the Cheshire Home Association, Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee of the Thelma Vaughan Memorial Home, Aaron Truss by active participation and involvement has worked untiringly in building a better social life not only for his constituents but for the wider community of Barbados.

As a Minister, his youthful exuberance and organizational ability have manifested themselves both in the new marketing thrust for the Ministry of Tourism and the national focus on environmental matters.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
(St. Thomas)  
**SIMMONS**  
David Anthony Cathcart  
Age: 46

Educated at Wesley Hall Boys' School, St. Philip Boys' School, the Lodge School, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LL.B. LL.M.); Barrister-at-Law (Lincoln's Inn); Former Lecturer in Law at Woolwich Polytechnic in England and at the U.W.I. (Cave Hill); Chairman of the National Housing Corporation (1976-79); the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (1979-81); and the Dodds Commission (1980); Member of Parliament (1976-81 and 1985 to date) and of the Senate (1981-85); Queen's Counsel (1984).

A spectacular bye-election victory in St. Philip North in 1976 first took David Simmons to Parliament and set the stage for the B.L.P.'s return to power later that year.

Brought into the Cabinet in June last year he has been an enigmatic Attorney General and constituency representative who has diligently looked after the national interests of Barbados and the needs of the people of St. Thomas.

A brilliant legal career saw him attain the highest honour at the Bar (Q.C.) quicker than any other practitioner in the legal history of this country. He is widely respected and admired as a man of integrity, courage and action.



# BLP MANIFESTO 1986

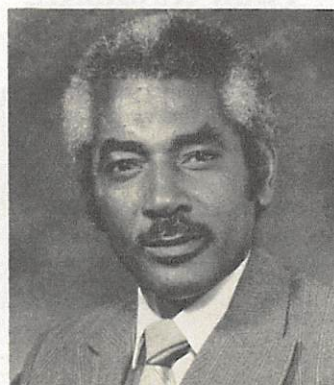


**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
**(St. Michael North-East)**  
**SISNETT**  
Leroy Laurisford  
Age: 45

Educated at St. Giles Boys' School; Modern High School; Career Academy, New York; Merchant Seaman; Founder Member of National Union of Seamen; Broadcaster; Member of Parliament since 1976; Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs 1976-81; Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Tourism 1981; Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of International Trade 1985 to date.

Leroy Sisnett was one of the country's most popular radio announcers before becoming a Member of Parliament and has maintained that popularity with his constituents.

As Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of International Trade he has received high praise for the work of the Import Licence Review Committee, which has been an essential tool in Government's economic strategy.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
**(St. Philip South)**  
**LINTON**  
Hutson Randolph  
Age: 40

Educated at Holy Trinity Boys' School, Combermere School, West London and Ealing Colleges, and University College, London.

He has an LL.B degree, is a Barrister-at-Law and an Attorney-at-Law.

He worked in the Barbados Civil Service, the General Post Office (London) and the Barbados High Commission in London. He has also been a Law Lecturer at Ealing College and BIMAP.

Has served as a member of the Senate (1976-86), Deputy Chairman of the Parks and Beaches Commission, Chairman of the National Conservation Commission, member of the Governing Body of the Lodge School, and Chairman of the BLP Conference (1978-1981).

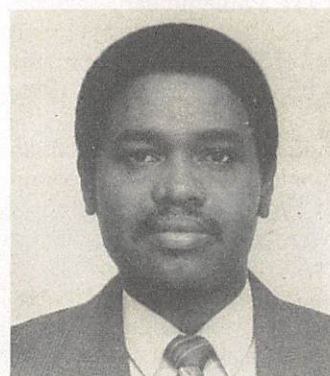
To him the men and women of the BLP have always represented a combination of vision, honesty, courage, and dedication to uplifting the people of Barbados, and pushing them forward into the 21st century.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
**(Christ Church West)**  
**FORDE**  
Henry deBoulay  
Age: 53

Educated at Christ Church Boys' School; Boys' Foundation School; Harrison College (Barbados Scholar 1952); Christ College, Cambridge University (M.A., LL.B); Barrister-at-Law (Middle Temple); Queen's Counsel; Past President Lions Club; Former Member Anglican Church Property Advisory Committee; Member of Parliament for Christ Church West since 1971; Minister of External Affairs; Attorney General & Minister of Legal Affairs 1976-1981.

After an outstanding contribution to the country as a member of the BLP Cabinet of 1976-1981, Henry Forde returned to his private legal practice after the '81 General Election. He has however, continued to make an important contribution to the development of the country by his informed comment from the back bench in the House of Assembly, where the interests of his constituents and the wider community are always well represented.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
**(St. James South)**  
**JORDAN**  
John Emmanuel  
Age: 31

Educated at the Good Shepherd Boys' School, the Modern High School, the Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill Campus).

He graduated from U.W.I. in 1977 with a B.Sc (First Class) Honours degree in Mathematics and Physics and has been a Senior Assistant Tutor in the Science Division of the Community College since 1977. He has been a Board Member of the Transport Board since 1982.

John Jordan is the youngest candidate in the 1986 election and is one of the outstanding young men who have been attracted to the ranks of the BLP and who will be offering their services to the people of Barbados.

An articulate and knowledgeable speaker in the Senate, he is widely respected in St. James South where he lives among his constituents as a young man whose philosophy of life is based on christian precepts of honesty, justice and love.



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## BLP MANIFESTO 1986

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**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
**(St. Michael**  
**South Central)**  
**GODDARD**  
**Philip Carlton**  
**Age: 47**

Educated at the Ursuline Convent; Miss Murphy's Primary School; Lodge School; Naval Flight Training School, Pensacola, Florida 1959; Managing Director C.F. Harrison's 1975; Managing Director Barbados Flight Kitchen; Chairman Pine Hill Dairy 1982 to date; Chairman Fund Raising Committee Children's Development Centre; President Barbados Chamber of Commerce 1984.

Philip Goddard's entry into the political arena was not without controversy as the DLP tried their usual smear tactics by questioning his ability on racial grounds, but he has proven himself both an able opponent and a man who gets the job done without any fanfare or pageantry.

His long experience in the commercial world enabled him to transform the Pine Hill Dairy from an inefficient organisation into a profitable enterprise. In the months since announcing his candidacy, Philip Goddard has already identified several areas in the constituency which will benefit from road construction and housing programmes and has assisted a number of senior citizens in having their homes repaired. Housing is an area that is of particular concern and he strongly supports the Barbados Labour Party's programme of encouraging the private sector to finance housing construction.



**YOUR CANDIDATE**  
**(St. John)**  
**NICHOLLS**  
**John**  
**Age: 35**

Educated at St. Luke's Boys' and St. Andrew's Boys' Schools; Combermere School; Life Underwriter's Association Training Course; Life Insurance Underwriter since 1980; president of the League of Young Socialists 1979-81; Member of the National Executive of the Barbados Labour Party since 1978; Second Vice-Chairman Barbados Labour Party 1984; Chairman International Youth Year Committee 1984-85; Represented Barbados at Commonwealth Youth Advisory Council Meeting, Cyprus & Regional Coordinators Meeting, St. Kitts 1984; Barbados Delegate UNDP Seminar "Domestic Development Services in the Caribbean", Jamaica 1985; Member of the Senate since 1985.

One of the many young people attracted by the progressive policies of the Barbados Labour Party, John Nicholls has a keen interest in the role which young people have to play in the development process of our country and recognises that the BLP is the party which affords them the opportunity to make this contribution.

In choosing to contest the St. John seat John Nicholls has demonstrated the courage and commitment required of an able representative. He has already identified the need for improved recreational and sporting facilities; housing; roads; training for the youth and the setting up of co-operatives in the farming community in the constituency.



# BLP MANIFESTO 1986

More money has been spent on education in the last 10 years than at any other period of our history. Ten new primary schools have been built and considerable expansion has taken place at the Polytechnic, the Community College and several other secondary schools throughout the island.

The re-elected BLP administration will:

- Start work before the end of 1986 on the redevelopment and extension of Queens College and Springer Memorial Schools.
- Amalgamate 21 existing primary schools into 10 modern schools.

The schools listed for immediate amalgamation are:

St. Mary's Infants and St. Mary's Primary, St. Augustine's Boys' and St. Augustine's Girls, St. Stephen's Junior and St. Stephen's Infants, St. Matthias Boys and St. Matthias Girls, Speightstown Boys and St. Peter's Girls, Mount Tabor and Cherry Grove, Bayley's Shrewsbury and St. Catherine's, St. Boniface and Black Bess, Selah and St. Swithin's, Hillaby and Turner's Hall.

- Extend the Community College to provide advanced vocational studies in Industrial Electronics, Health Science, Applied Arts and Crafts, Design Technology and Business studies.
- Erect Skills Training Centres at Sayes Court, Passage Road and The Glebe, St. George. The curricula and training programmes of these centres will make use of the expertise already available at other institutions such as the Community College, the Polytechnic, the Barbados Defence Force, private sector training bodies and BIMAP.
- Upgrade and expand the training facilities at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic.
- Erect a new Management/Pedagogical Complex for the Ministry of Education & Culture.

The BLP will continue its major thrust in ongoing curriculum development and staff development programmes. Specifically, it plans to train 1,500 teachers in remedial education and 650 in educational management in the next five years.

The BLP believes that our private secondary schools are an integral part of our education system and will continue to expand its programme of assistance to these schools.

The Party will continue its dialogue with secondary and tertiary institutions on the establishment of appropriate linkages for offering high-level courses geared to meet specific training needs in the business, manufacturing and industrial sectors.

It will give early consideration to a report shortly to be submitted by a Committee on the role of the Cave Hill Campus of the U.W.I. in a changing environment. The BLP's aim will be to make the University more relevant to the demands of Barbados as we move towards the Twenty-first century.

Students at the University of the West Indies will continue to have their education free from payment of economic costs.

## CULTURE AND THE ARTS

The Barbados Labour Party has held fast to the view, expressed in its 1976 Manifesto, that opportunities and facilities should be provided for the enjoyment and creative use of leisure time and the fulfilment of our non-material needs.

Indeed, the achievements in culture and the arts have been nothing short of spectacular during the BLP's term of office. The cultural explosion being experienced in Barbados is evidence of the oft-repeated assertion that Barbados is now the cultural centre of the Eastern Caribbean.

Two principal strategies have informed the Party's policies. These involved the establishment of a National Cultural Foundation and a clearly defined approach to the preservation and development of our cultural heritage. The National Cultural Foundation has provided an umbrella under which the arts have flourished like never before in the history of Barbados.

The BLP administration has also made considerable strides in transforming community centres into vital centres of focus on our heritage in the arts. The Party will continue the policy of reaching out to community groups and ensuring that their commitment to the upliftment of local cultural expression is strengthened. The Party's further proposals include:

- The continued development of the Crop-Over Festival as the major event on the national cultural calendar.
- Continued support for strengthening the work of bodies such as the National Trust in preserving buildings of interest and artistic treasures for the nation.
- The creation of other emporia and galleries for the sale of local works of art and handicraft.
- The preservation of the existing museums and the creation of others to focus on special areas of our heritage such as the sugar plantation.
- Assistance for individuals and groups to participate in cultural events overseas.
- Encouragement of communities to continue the painting of public murals.
- The erection of more statues to our national heroes.
- The setting up of a Barbados Film Commission to market Barbados as an "on location" destination to agencies and film producers from overseas.
- The establishment of a traditional Bajan village based on the old-time village shop, blacksmith shop, standpipe etc.
- Expansion of the Fine Arts Division of the Community



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## BLP MANIFESTO 1986

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College to incorporate dance, drama, music, design and sculpture.

- Presentation and promotion of Bajan traditional and contemporary music on the electronic media.
- The Frank Collymore Recital Hall in the new Central Bank complex will be fully utilised to provide a venue for musical and artistic performances.
- The old Town Hall in Bridgetown will be restored as the National Art Gallery and the permanent home of the National Art Collection.
- The Empire Theatre will be suitably restored for the people of Barbados as a Centre for the Performing Arts.

## HEALTH

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The Barbados Labour Party reaffirms its commitment to its 1981 Manifesto pledge of free and easy access to health care for all, through the establishment of a National Health Service.

The Party has put many aspects of the National Health service in place. It implemented its plan to decentralise and upgrade primary health delivery services by completing a number of polyclinics placed at strategic points easily accessible to all Barbadians.

In 1982, polyclinics were completed at Wildey, Warrens and Oistins. These were followed by Ladymeade in 1985. The completion of the Glebe Polyclinic early in the life of the new BLP administration will bring the number to eight.

The re-elected BLP will extend existing facilities at Black Rock, Belleplaine and Gall Hill, St. John, and a satellite clinic will be established in the Scotland District. The Party believes that the integration of services through this network of polyclinics is essential to primary care.

At the secondary and tertiary levels, the BLP will continue its support for the improvement of medical services by:

- The upgrading and extension of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital by increasing its capacity to give adequate national health care.
- Allowing the use of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as a lecture facility for the University of the West Indies.
- The construction of a new five-storey annex and five-storey in-fill block, and reconstruction and refurbishing of parts of the main building of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Work on this project has already commenced.
- The institutional strengthening of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital through advisory/operational services, in medical/nursing areas and the expansion of the overseas training programme.

- Paying all expenses of persons who have to go overseas for medical attention in cases where treatment is not available in Barbados.
- Expanding the range of services under the National Health Scheme to include dental, ophthalmological and allied areas.
- Offering a new regime of incentives to encourage the establishment of private health care enterprises, to enable them to purchase their imports duty free and claim rebates on foreign exchange earnings. The aim is to encourage the growth of life care facilities, retirement villages and health clubs.
- Expanding the community nursing service with the assistance of P.A.H.O.
- Completing the feasibility study which is at present being undertaken to determine the need for a new psychiatric hospital. The study is looking at all other feasible options including the use of the St. Joseph Hospital. Early consideration will be given to the study's findings and its recommendations implemented after consultation with the appropriate bodies. External financing will be obtained for this project.
- Restructuring the services being delivered to the elderly in the Geriatric institutions and in the community in general. A feasibility study is at present being undertaken on this with assistance of P.A.H.O. External assistance will be sought to implement such of the study's proposals as are accepted.

The Party's consultations with the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners (BAMP) has convinced it of the wisdom of its commitment to an integrated system of primary, secondary and tertiary care.

The Party has amended the Health Levy Act in order to use part of the Health Service Levy Fund for increasing the number of consultants at the Hospital and thus improve the diagnostic facilities.

The Party confidently expects to reach final agreement with BAMP on outstanding matters early in the new BLP administration. The aim will be to utilise the manpower in existence in private medical offices for the delivery of health care to all eligible groups.

## HOUSING

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The Barbados Labour Party believes that every Barbadian should own a decent home at an affordable cost. Thus in the 1950's it built the Pine Housing Estates and followed in later years with similar projects in Grazettes, St. Michael, Gall Hill, Christ Church, Six Cross Roads, St. Philip and generally throughout Barbados.



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The Party is satisfied that Barbadians have become more prosperous during the years of BLP Government. Also the result of the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act has been to make many more Barbadians owners of their own house spots. As a consequence many more of our citizens now wish to own their own homes.

In recognition of this legitimate desire as well as of the need to upgrade the existing housing stock, the Party has developed a broad policy involving the private and public sectors. A vigorous sites and services programme was started and new incentives to make mortgage funds available to more people have been provided. Reference has already been made to the proposed Housing Fund which will provide a stimulus for rapid housing development.

The Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, enacted by the Barbados Labour Party Government in 1980, represents the most significant step towards a secure home-owning democracy in the history of Barbados. Its wide application to plantation and urban tenancies has removed one of the lingering vestiges of the plantation system.

On tenancies across Barbados, wall is steadily replacing the wooden structures and the concomitant upgrading of the secondary road system is improving the general amenities of rural dwellers.

The re-elected BLP Government will combine this development with urban and suburban renewal on an unprecedented scale. Areas of heavy population, particularly in St. James, St. Michael and Christ Church, will benefit from the drive to renovate, repair and replace the existing housing stock.

## TENANTRIES

The BLP, when re-elected will complete the current negotiations with the World Bank to provide finance for the future development of all urban and sub-urban tenancies. The programme will include the provision of all utilities, water, electricity and natural gas. Funds will be made available on easy credit terms to enable tenants to purchase their lots and improve their houses.

The provision of rental units by the National Housing Corporation which was started at Fernihurst, Rosemount, Bonnetts and the Ivy, will continue at Kensington Lodge, Maynards, Lammings, Nelson Street, Bonnetts and Simmons Land, Rendezvous.

The National Housing Corporation has drawn on the resources of private builders for middle income housing. Its sites and services programme encompasses areas such as Glebe, St. George, Parish Land and Gall Hill, Christ Church, West Terrace and Husbands in St. James.

## PROPOSALS

The Party will consolidate the efforts of the last five years and specifically will:

- Encourage the private sector to play a more active role in the provision of new homes and home improvements and to participate in low cost housing. The programme of a special tax regime for housing construction corporations will be reviewed with the aim of giving encouragement to these enterprises to produce both for the

home and Caricom markets.

- Encourage partnership schemes between the National Housing Corporation and private builders to provide houses to rent and own.
- Focus increased levels of resources on renovating and maintaining the existing housing inventory.
- Develop an integrated programme to provide house spots, new houses and finance.
- Bring to Parliament at an early date a Bill, already drafted, to provide for a secondary mortgage market.
- Introduce a new Building Societies Act.
- Continue to assist in tenantry land purchase.
- Repair existing tenantry roads and construct new ones.
- Expand the General Workers' Fund and the Housing Welfare Programme. Loans are already being disbursed from the General Workers' Fund, which was restarted in financial year 1985-86.
- Acquire suitable lands for the provision of house spots for rent and sale. The sites and services programme implemented in the last five years will be further expanded and particular regard will be paid to lands in urban and sub-urban areas where the house stock is derelict and dilapidated.
- Offer for sale to all tenants of the National Housing Corporation the detached homes which they occupy, giving credits for the rents which they have paid.
- Continue to provide suitable incentives with a view to the reduction of the costs of construction.
- Actively promote 30 year mortgages (with an upper limit of 95%) being made available to borrowers.
- Pursue a vigorous programme of repairs, improvement and rehabilitation of existing National Housing Corporation units.
- Stimulate interest in home ownership, particularly for young married couples by tax concessions in respect of savings made specifically for this purpose, and also through the "Starter" house project.

The BLP, with a view to minimising the traumatic consequences of fires, will

- Seek to institute a form of compulsory home insurance, with Government taking full responsibility for the houses of the aged and infirm.
- Establish hostel-type accommodation.
- Expand the role of CERO to coordinate fire and other disaster cases.



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### LABOUR: TOWARDS INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY

The past five years have been a period of industrial harmony in Barbados. The BLP will continue to promote a climate in which employers and employees will work in partnership towards national development and industrial democracy. At the same time, the Party will seek to protect and promote the rights of workers. It will expand assistance to workers' organisations. In particular, part of the Training Levy Fund will be used for the further promotion of workers' education, training and retraining.

The BLP will also continue its longstanding practice of consultation with all relevant interest groups before implementing measures which affect them.

A BLP administration will continue its programme of surveying periodically the Island's manpower needs.

The survey will generate information to provide an accurate inventory of existing skills and potential needs and information on the competitive position of labour. It will better enable government and the private sector to respond to clearly identified needs.

For some time now the Party has been concerned about the operation of private employment agencies. It will therefore introduce into Parliament a Bill under which all private employment agencies will be required to register with the Chief Labour Officer and provide him with such information as he requires.

The authority for enforcing safety, health and hygiene in factories has been centralised in the Labour Department and the necessary additional staff will be provided to enable the Department to discharge its additional responsibilities.

Among the additional proposals and measures which the re-elected BLP Government will implement are:

- The enactment of the Unfair Dismissals Act, which has been already drafted. Workers' and employers' organisations will be fully consulted on its provisions.
- The modernisation, updating and simplification of the labour laws of Barbados after consultation with workers' and employers' organisations. Particular urgency will be given to the revision of the Severance Payments Act.
- Continuation of tax exemption for union contributions to encourage a better level of funding.
- Increased support for education and training for shop stewards and other workers' representatives.
- Encouragement of the provision of adequate facilities at the workplace and reasonable time off for union representatives to perform their duties.
- The encouragement of the linking of adult training with initial training. This will also be a part of the Continuing Education Programme outlined earlier.

- The abolition of the distinction between part-time and full-time workers in terms of rights, hourly pay-rates and conditions, where these still exist.
- Extension of greater employment protection to home workers, particularly cottage industry workers.
- Encouragement of arbitration as a fair and constructive means of settling disputes.
- The expansion of incentives for employee share-ownership.
- The encouragement of companies to develop collective share ownership schemes based on profit sharing as an essential component of industrial democracy.
- Upgrading of the Employment Exchange and the establishment of regional sub-offices. These offices will assume a larger function by monitoring manpower needs and vacancies.
- Continuation of grants to the Unions and the use of the Training Levy Fund to assist with workers' education.
- The seeking of additional places for women on the Canadian Programme and the continuation of efforts to recruit Barbadians for the apple-picking programme in the U.S.A.
- The securing of additional jobs for Barbadians on the U.S.A. and Canadian Farm Labour Programmes.

### WOMEN OF BARBADOS: THE STILL BETTER DEAL

The BLP's record on human rights and equality for women is unmatched. In the area of legislation, for example, of the 46 recommendations made by the National Commission on the Status of Women, 40 have been effected. These include The Marriage Act; The Property Act; The Status of Children Reform Act; The Family Law Act and The Community Legal Services Act, to name a few. These are all helping to improve the quality of life of Barbadian women.

The Party recognises, however, that it must redouble its efforts to remove any inequalities that still exist between men and women in our society.

#### FIGHTING ABUSES

The BLP is cognisant of the fact that there is a growing problem of physical and other abuses against women and children.



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Under the proposed Offences Against the Person Act existing legal loopholes will be removed and more protection will be given to women and children within the Court system. In particular cases of child abuse and sexual offences will be heard in a closed-Court situation. Existing penalties and fines will be increased. There will be a linkage between psychiatric and custodial treatment where the court considers this warranted.

## MAINTENANCE

In the light of the severe burden women in Barbados undergo to secure maintenance payments from putative fathers, the BLP pledges to review and increase the level of weekly National Assistance Grants for women and children from its present level so that these families might have an equitable chance in life.

It also pledges to provide machinery through the Legal Aid Act for women to get the assistance of the Courts in the granting of maintenance payments from putative fathers. Maintenance payments when granted will not form part of the income of the parent or guardian for income tax purposes. Property transferred between spouses in accordance with an approved Court Order made on the breakdown of a marriage or of a union other than a marriage will be exempt from property transfer tax and stamp duty.

A BLP Government will commit itself to the creation of employment opportunities for unskilled women between the ages of 15 and 50 years who have no qualifications – no School-leaving Certificate. Special classes in Child Care, Home Nursing, Bedside Nursing, Home Economics, Food Processing, Dressmaking and Designing will be given so that these women can enter the job market with these basic skills.

These classes will be operated under the aegis of the National Training Board with assistance from other concerned Ministries and Boards. Special assistance from the Training Fund will be given to the Barbados Child Care Board to enable it to incorporate Child Care Training for unskilled women in its yearly training programmes.

The training will also be used to expand the cooperative movement. Funds will be granted by a BLP Government at the end of the programme for groups of women to form co-operatives, to operate Child Care Centres, Family Day Care Centres, Home Nursing Services, Bedside Nursing Services, Day Care for Senior Citizens and Homes for Senior Citizens, Mini-Food Processing and Marketing Projects and Co-operative Farming Projects.

## WOMEN'S BUREAU

The Women's Bureau will be structured to play a role along with other departments of government in promoting employment for women, developing training programmes, monitoring practices of sexual discrimination and acquiring funds and grants for allocation to various income generating projects.

Other specific measures will include:

- The implementation of the remaining recommendations of the National Commission on the Status of Women.

- The extension of employment rights to include part-time and home workers.
- Improving the level of financial support to families with disabled dependants. Special assistance will be given to one-parent families.
- Giving more support to victims of rape and reviewing police and court procedures in cases of rape and violence against women.
- Keeping under constant review and amending, where recommended by the Family Law Advisory Council, the Family Law Act, the Succession Act and other legislation affecting women's civil rights.
- Improving anti-natal and maternity services.
- Encouraging Women's Organisations, church and other voluntary organisations to provide and operate family crisis centres and refuges for battered wives.
- Eliminating any remaining areas of discrimination against women.

## CHILDREN

A BLP Government will increase the levels of subvention to and increase the number of Day Care Operators who are eligible for financial assistance. At present, there are about 37 registered private day care operators.

The new BLP administration will introduce a Child Care Aid Programme in which persons will assist in the care of children in cases where their parents are unable to provide care for them. This should have an additional benefit of stimulating employment among unskilled women.

A scheme of this nature will be in keeping with the Party's concept of community care and will ensure that children who can remain in their own homes receive care there and not in a public institution.

## CHILD ABUSE

All efforts will be made to continue the work done by the Child Care Board in the area of child abuse. Comprehensive legislation will be introduced to protect the rights of the child and to protect children from pornographic and other immoral and corrupt activities and from illegal drugs and other abuses.

Consideration will also be given to mandatory reporting of cases of child abuse by medical and educational authorities.

## DRUG PREVENTION

Specific attention will be paid to the prevention of the trafficking and use of drugs among school children of all



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ages, as part of the Party's War on Drugs, details of which are set out on page 30.

### YOUTH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SPORT

Barbados today is generally regarded as a success story not only because we appear to be an oasis of prosperity in a developing world hard hit by adverse economic forces, but particularly because we have done this in spite of limited physical resources.

Our success is therefore a vindication of the BLP's belief in the infinite capacity of our people to achieve whatever they set their minds to, and our recognition that this will be possible only if our emphasis is placed on the development of our human resources.

At the centre of our planning are programmes for the total development of our young people by the generation of wider opportunities for their education, training and recreation.

The Skills Training Scheme, was established by Government as a vehicle for helping young people to acquire the practical skills required to find jobs. The success of this programme is well known.

The following are the key elements of the BLP's policy for youth:

- To encourage self help among the youth.
- To mobilise, encourage and stimulate the development of youth groups through training schemes and seminars.
- To develop programmes for the participation of youth in recreational, educational and community activities.
- To provide and maximise employment opportunities for all young adults.

For the youth of Barbados, the BLP has planned the following:

- All school-leavers who do not continue fulltime education will be provided with job-related training leading to a vocational qualification.
- Enlisting more employers to take on apprentices under the Skills Training Scheme.
- The Skills Training Scheme will aim for a substantial increase in the number of trainees.

- The provision of programmes of continuing education.
- Provision of greater opportunities for youth to participate in the policy and decision making process of government.
- The provision of subventions to Youth Groups.
- Encouragement of structured activities for children and young people through youth camps, particularly during vacation. This would be a protective measure for young citizens and eliminate some of the problems which occur among children and young people who are unsupervised during holidays. Schools and community centres will be used as the facilities for such organised activities.

### COMMUNITY CENTRES

New community centres have been established at Checker Hall, Clapham Park, Rock Hall and Elkes Pasture. Extensive renovations have also been completed at others including Trents, St. James, and Ellerton in St. George.

The BLP believes that community centres, where conveniently located, should be multi-purpose serving as pavilions and skills training centres. They should serve too as focal meeting points for the community, encouraging the mixing of classes and races and the young and persons of an older age.

When re-elected, the Party will continue its policy of establishing new community centres and pavilions and the conversion of disused public baths into meeting rooms. Existing community centres will be renovated and refurbished.

Young Community Workers (Youth Leaders) will be attached to each community centre to work under the guidance of the Community Development Officers. These workers will provide counselling and guidance and advice to their peers in all areas. They will liaise with employment agencies and assist with job placement and recreational activities at community centres.

Encouragement will be given to Youth Groups, voluntary associations of citizens and other community organisations to use the Centres for their meeting places and for programmes of the Arts, including dance, drama and music.

### SPORT

The Barbados Labour Party will continue its drive to bring Sports facilities within reach of every community in Barbados. As part of its plan to continue improving existing facilities, the Party will complete the refurbishing and upgrading of the National Stadium.

Hard courts and football fields in suitable areas will be floodlit. Coaching will be intensified so as to enable Barbadian sportsmen and sportswomen to gain recognition at regional and international level in a wider variety of sports. Financial assistance will also be provided to local sporting organisations.

A policy of linking sport to tourism, previously referred to, is seen by the BLP as one way of benefitting both sport and tourism in the island.

In pursuance of a promise in our Manifestos of 1976 and



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1981, the re-elected BLP administration with assistance from the Government of China, will provide an indoor gymnasium to serve the needs of basket-ball, table tennis, volley ball and other sports, including badminton and squash. A \$20 million loan agreement has already been signed.

Other plans by the BLP for the development of sports include:

- Assistance with the promotion of weight-lifting.
- Support for aquatic sports including the revival of water-polo and the establishment of an Olympic-size swimming pool.
- Conducting seminars and work-shops for officials and members of national associations.
- Expansion of the coaching programme in educational institutions and with community groups to ensure that more young persons are taught the techniques and skills of various sports.
- Specialised training by the National Sports Council, with the co-operation of schools and amateur associations, for all who show potential in sports.
- Covering the Netball Stadium.
- The provision of more playing fields and hard courts throughout the island.
- The provision of pavilions/changing facilities at playing fields already in existence.
- The provision of adequate financial and other support to the National Sports Council enabling it the better to take care of sporting plant and facilities provided from public funds.

## WAR ON DRUGS

The Barbados Labour Party sees the issue of illicit drugs as one of the major problems of our time. It has therefore developed a four-pronged approach under the heads of (a) Education and Prevention; (b) Legislation (c) Detection and (d) Rehabilitation.

The Party has been unrelenting in its efforts to wage all-out war on the scourge of drugs within Barbados. Its commitment to the global war on drugs is evidenced by its being a party to the United Nations Convention which provides for the fullest co-operation between friendly governments in dealing with trafficking on the high seas. Within Caricom it has taken the initiative to seek a coordination of policies in relation to drug control. At home it has established a broadly based committee with wide terms of reference to advise the government on all aspects of the drug problem. The report of this Committee will be made public and laid in the House of Assembly. Its recommendations will be fully debated and implemented.

Other measures to be taken will include:

- Stiffer penalties for drug traffickers.
- Rehabilitation of drug addicts.
- Provision for the examination of the financial activities of drug abusers and the seizure of their traceable assets derived from drug trafficking.
- Provisions to deem anyone found offering drugs in schools as a trafficker and upon conviction, the offender to be liable to a mandatory term of imprisonment.

The Party recognises that notwithstanding educational and preventive programmes and the imposition of stiff penalties, there will be those who will try to circumvent the law. Consequently, a number of new detection measures, some of which are already in force, will be further developed.

The BLP will see to it that arrangements are made to establish special drug clinics at the Polyclinics where known drug users will, when there is appropriate legislation, be compelled to attend.

The Party is of the view that part of the rehabilitation process should be attendances at specially designed training programmes. For example, a special programme under the Ministry of Education will focus on lectures from the Ministry of Health, the teaching profession, the Church and Police. This will be backed up by films and posters.

## LEGAL AFFAIRS

Since 1976 the Barbados Labour Party has established an impressive record of modernisation of the Laws of Barbados. This has been achieved by the bold and enlightened approach of the Party to the enactment of legislation reflective of the needs of a developing country. There is still much to be done as Law Reform and Law Revision are continuing processes.

The re-elected BLP Government will enact the following new Acts to update the CRIMINAL LAW.

- An Offences against the Person Act.
- A Criminal Damage Act.
- A Criminal Law (Arrestable Offences) Act.
- A Theft Act.
- A Magistrate's Jurisdiction & Procedure Act.
- A Bail Act.
- An Evidence Act.



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- A Consolidating Narcotic Drugs Act.
- A Protection of Children Act.
- A Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.

Many of the above are already in draft stage.

In the area of CIVIL LAW, the Party will enact new legislation to enhance consumer protection and to modernise the laws relating to:

- Sale of Goods, Hire Purchases and Credit Sales.
- Trade Descriptions & Misrepresentation.
- Protection of Depositors & Investors.
- Prevention of Fraud.

It will also:

- Review and consolidate all legislation relating to landlords and tenants, and particularly the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act.
- Expand legal aid in civil cases.
- Promulgate a Building and Construction Code.
- Reform the Law of Defamation
- Reform the law relating to bankruptcy, insolvency and receiverships.
- Pass a new Limitations Act.

### THE POLICE

The Barbados Labour Party has done more than any other Party to improve the conditions of service of the Police. The Royal Barbados Police Force has been manned and equipped in a manner that it can effectively counter the sophistication of contemporary crime. The Party's vision for the continued modernisation of the Force will necessitate:

- Construction of a new headquarters complex at Widley, including the provision of forensic facilities.
- Construction of a new station at the Airport and a new Headquarters for the Police Band.
- The undertaking of renovations at all Districts.
- An expansion of the Special Constabulary.
- The overhaul of the legislation relating to the Police, including the Police Act, Disciplinary Regulations and Promotion Rules.

- Continuation and intensification of training locally and overseas.
- The continuation of its policy of providing more resources for the better equipping and functioning of the Force.

### THE COURTS

As in the case of the Police, the time has come for a complete redevelopment of the Courts' system. Not only must ancient structures be replaced, but the judicial system must be made to function more cheaply, more speedily and more efficiently. To achieve these objectives, the Barbados Labour Party will:

- Construct new Magistrates' Courts for Districts "C", "D" and "E" and renovate the District "A" Courts.
- Increase the number of Magistrates.
- Introduce into the Magisterial system, legally qualified prosecutors.
- Implement the "paper committals" system to speed up the work at Preliminary Inquiries, and make new Rules for Magistrates' Courts.
- Construct a new Supreme Court and Registry complex with provision for a separate Court of Appeal.
- Abolish the system in which Judges take notes of evidence manually.
- Provide additional training for Registry Personnel and other support staff.
- Support programmes of continuing education for lawyers and others engaged in the administration of the law.

### THE YOUTH AND THE LAW

The Barbados Labour Party believes in a multi-dimensional approach to the treatment of young offenders. The Party recognises the need for a new approach in order to successfully rehabilitate offenders and to pay attention to the particular needs of the offender. To this end, the Barbados Labour Party will:

- Enact a Young Offenders' Act.
- Appoint a Director of Correctional Services; and incorporate the work of the Probation Service in a new Department of Correctional Services.
- Expand the system of Community Service Orders.
- Abolish fixed term sentences for juveniles and substitute an order for Discipline and Training of indeterminate duration.



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- Raise the age of criminal responsibility from the age of seven to a more appropriate level.

## THE FIRE SERVICE

The Barbados Labour Party commends the members of the Fire Service for their excellent work and their devotion to duty. The BLP has already announced plans to increase personnel. It also proposes to:

- Further reduce the number of hours for which members are expected to be on call. In particular a Reserve scheme will be implemented.
- Continue to upgrade plant and equipment with a view to the modernisation of the service. In particular, the Party will construct new stations at St. Philip, St. Thomas and St. Peter, and will remodel the present Police Station at Boarded Hall into a Training Station and substation.
- Continue and intensify training locally and overseas for members of the service.

## DEFENCE AND SECURITY

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The BLP remains committed to the provision of a small, adequately equipped integrated Defence Force comprising air, sea and land capability.

As an island territory, our Defence Force has a special responsibility in securing our sea resources, particularly in fisheries patrol, the prevention of smuggling, the detection of drug trafficking, and the prevention of acts of terrorism.

The Party will continue its efforts to promote a Regional Security System. As an independent country, Barbados will require that the terms of such an arrangement be clearly set out in a formal treaty.

The BLP will continue to ensure that the Defence Force plays a role in complementing the Police Force, especially in times of emergency such as hurricanes and floods.

The cost of the Defence Force will be closely monitored and controlled.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Since 1976 the conduct of our foreign policy has given full expression to our support for certain internationally held

fundamental principles, e.g., human rights. This is so because our policies abroad must be in furtherance of our policies at home and as a free society propelled by a deep and abiding respect for the rights and privileges of all our people, we give support on the international stage to all causes which would enhance the dignity of man.

We have therefore lent our voice to the protests against the odious system of apartheid and firmly committed ourselves to its obliteration from the face of the earth.

And we have done more. . . . We, a small country in the United Nations Family, were the Chairman of the United Nations Committee that produced the Convention against Apartheid in Sport which even now is being ratified by countries around the world. It speaks well for the respect we have earned internationally. This was not so prior to 1976. Today, we can commit ourselves to maintaining our place as one of the world's principled nations.

Our foreign policy objectives also include the commitment to furthering abroad Government's thrust for greater foreign exchange earnings either through the traditional route of exports or through the modern mechanism of invisible exports as exemplified by the services sector.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue its work to reinforce and cement political and trading relations with our Caricom partners in pursuit of its commitment to the idea of regional unity.

It will be the Ministry's responsibility to give effect to the need for Barbados to negotiate and extend its network of Double Taxation Treaties in an effort to enhance the investment climate of the Island.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will also monitor the financial and legal developments in the host countries and report to the Government on these changes so that the domestic taxation and fiscal policies can be amended to take advantage of any such developments.

To carry out its mandate effectively and to ensure that the reputation of Barbados abroad remains high the Party when re-elected, will:

- Carry out a review of the structure of the Ministry at Headquarters and in the Missions abroad.
- Seek to attract to the Foreign Service persons with a wider range of disciplines than has previously been the case.
- Review our existing representational managements abroad.
- Ensure that appropriate mechanisms exist for the co-ordination of the efforts of all those agencies which represent us abroad.

We re-dedicate ourselves to the high ideals that inform the positions we have consistently taken on foreign policy issues and will therefore:

- Use every available diplomatic and legal means to fight for the abolition of apartheid and support the struggles of the black peoples of South Africa.
- Support the people of Namibia in their quest for independence.



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### TOWARDS A BETTER LIFE

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The motto of The Barbados Labour Party "A Better Life for our People" speaks of a crusade started by the Party more than 48 years ago to remove from the face of our island the darkest stains of poverty which had disfigured our national life. This on-going crusade will continue to address the particular needs of the disadvantaged in our society.

If the BLP can be truly characterised as the Tax Reform Party, it can similarly be known as the Social Conscience Party of Barbados.

#### THE ELDERLY

The Barbados Labour Party has a proud record of progressive policies towards the older generation.

On assuming office in 1976, minimum old age and invalidity pensions were at a scandalous level. Today, non-contributory old age pensions are at the level of \$48.00 per week and minimum contributory pensions moved from \$50.00 to \$60.00 in the 1986 Budget. In addition, there has been a significant increase in benefits through the network of polyclinics.

The 1986 Budget gave a 50 per cent increase in the cost of living allowances to public servants, teachers and other workers whose pensions may not have kept pace with inflation.

The new BLP administration will keep all levels of assistance to the elderly under constant consideration for ongoing upward improvement.

Early consideration will be given to the case for the upgrading of existing and the construction of new facilities for senior citizens who cannot take care of themselves.

#### WELFARE SERVICES

The Welfare Department and the National Assistance Board will be re-integrated so that there is a unified approach

to care for the aged and provision for welfare assistance to the needy under the current National Assistance Act. This will lead to a more effective sharing of scarce resources.

Further rationalisation of these services will be encouraged so that counselling for family and other matters can be done in any of the presently established rural and other offices. Welfare grants and assistance would therefore be seen as an adjunct to a counselling service and not a service in itself.

#### THE HOMELESS

Most of the cases of homelessness in this country relate to women and children. This homelessness occurs because of eviction from their homes by males (common-law unions). In the past, each year over 50 children were separated from their parents and placed in care.

A BLP Government will acquire accommodation for use by homeless families until they can return to their own homes. This would, in the short term, ease the pressure on the Government's Housing Programme.

This accommodation will be serviced by Social Workers of the Welfare Department whose duty it will be to assist in the rehabilitation of these persons through the assistance of National and Private Housing Bodies.

#### THE HANDICAPPED

The BLP is committed to the rehabilitation of disabled children so that they would not remain confined to an institution for the rest of their lives.

The re-elected BLP will continue to encourage the integration of services for the handicapped in general so that normal and handicapped persons can develop together and the principles of normalisation can be encouraged.

The Party will continually review its level of assistance to The Children's Development Centre and other institutions catering to the handicapped.



## **CONCLUSION**

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We have in the past ten years launched and executed policies and programmes which took Barbados into the decade of the 1980's and charted a course for taking it further along the road to progress.

The policies enunciated in this Manifesto seek to make the changes necessary to restructure our society to meet the challenges of the Twenty-first century. Those changes must be made now.

They are changes which will make life better for all of our people. Putting people first has always been the Barbados Labour Party's position. It always will be.

We are a Party that has always fought for improvements that matter to the people: jobs and job security; reduction in the burdens of taxation; improved and affordable medical care and housing; the protection of tenants' rights; improvements in private pension schemes and the upgrading of the public pension system; increased benefits for the aged, the handicapped and the homeless; improvement of child care and the eradication of abuse of children; the removal of all forms of discrimination; the equality of women; wider community participation and the preservation of our democratic rights.

None of these things can be achieved or, when won, kept and preserved unless there is the total national will to keep Barbados first. There are no easy fixes. Our vision must be clear. We must be prepared to meet the new challenges and we must have the courage to continue to make the changes that put people first.

Our Party's experience in government, its record of achievements, its creative and constructive ideas and policies and its clear vision of the future as set out in this Manifesto, deserve your continuing support and your vote of confidence. Together we can achieve the better life for all of our people.



## SUMMARY OF KEY PROJECTS

Below is a list of some of our Plans and Projects for the next five years:

- Promotion of 30 year mortgages.
- Creation of secondary mortgage market (Legislation already drafted).
- Incentives to reduce costs of construction.
- Offer for sale of detached homes to NHC tenants given them credit for rents paid.
- Upgrading of the employment exchange.
- Employment protection for cottage workers.
- Provision of longer term mortgages in the hotel industry.
- Establishment of a special tax regime for professionals practising offshore.
- Provision of a new tax regime for health care enterprises.
- Increased allowances for savings in Credit Unions, life insurance premiums etc.
- Provision of a special tax regime for small business.
- Relief for manufacturers and hotels from payment of interest and penalties of arrears paid within one year.
- Provision of tax allowances for working students.
- Abolition of income tax on all National Insurance Pensions.
- Creation of a housing fund to speed up repairs.
- Exemption of maintenance payments from income tax.
- Continuation of the progressive reduction of income tax and corporation tax.
- Improvement of facilities in the Parliament building.
- Establishment of a Design Centre.
- Establishment of a Convention and Meeting Bureau.
- Improvement of in-bond facilities at the Port and Airport.
- Upgrading of public accesses to beaches.
- Replacement of some existing district post offices.
- Upgrading of Industrial Arts Workshops.
- Construction of new Secondary School at Wotton, Christ Church.
- Construction of Carlisle Bay Development Project, Bridgetown Fisheries Project and Bridgetown Waterfront Development.
- Erection of housing developments at Pondside, Greenfield and other areas.
- Erection of multi-storey car parking for Bridgetown.
- Creation of Graeme Hall Park.
- Development of Sewerage Projects for South Coast, West Coast and Greater Bridgetown.
- Upgrading fish landing sites at Consett Bay, Skeete's Bay and elsewhere.
- Establishment of new Community Centres.
- Construction of new 20.6 kilometre super highway.
- Construction of Northern access road.
- Extension of Queen's College and Springer Memorial Schools.
- Amalgamation of 21 primary schools.
- Construction of a new Management Complex for the Ministry of Education.
- Erection of more statues to national heroes.
- Old Town Hall in Bridgetown to become National Art Gallery.
- Empire Theatre to be Centre for the Performing Arts.
- Upgrading and extension of Queen Elizabeth Hospital to be completed.
- Netball Stadium to be covered.
- Provision of more playing fields.
- Construction of gymnasium at Passage Road.
- Construction of a new Supreme Court Complex at Coleridge Street.
- Construction of a new Police Headquarters with forensic facilities at Wildey.
- Erection of new headquarters for the Police Band.
- New Fire Stations at St. Philip, St. Thomas and St. Peter.
- Expansion of CBC Complex at the Pine.
- Construction of new Barbados Development Bank Headquarters.
- Construction of a liquefied petroleum plant.
- Expansion of delivery of natural gas.
- Development of wind power.
- Repairing and upgrading of all subsidiary/tenantry roads.
- Erection of a new Transport Board Headquarters.
- Erection of new bus terminals.



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