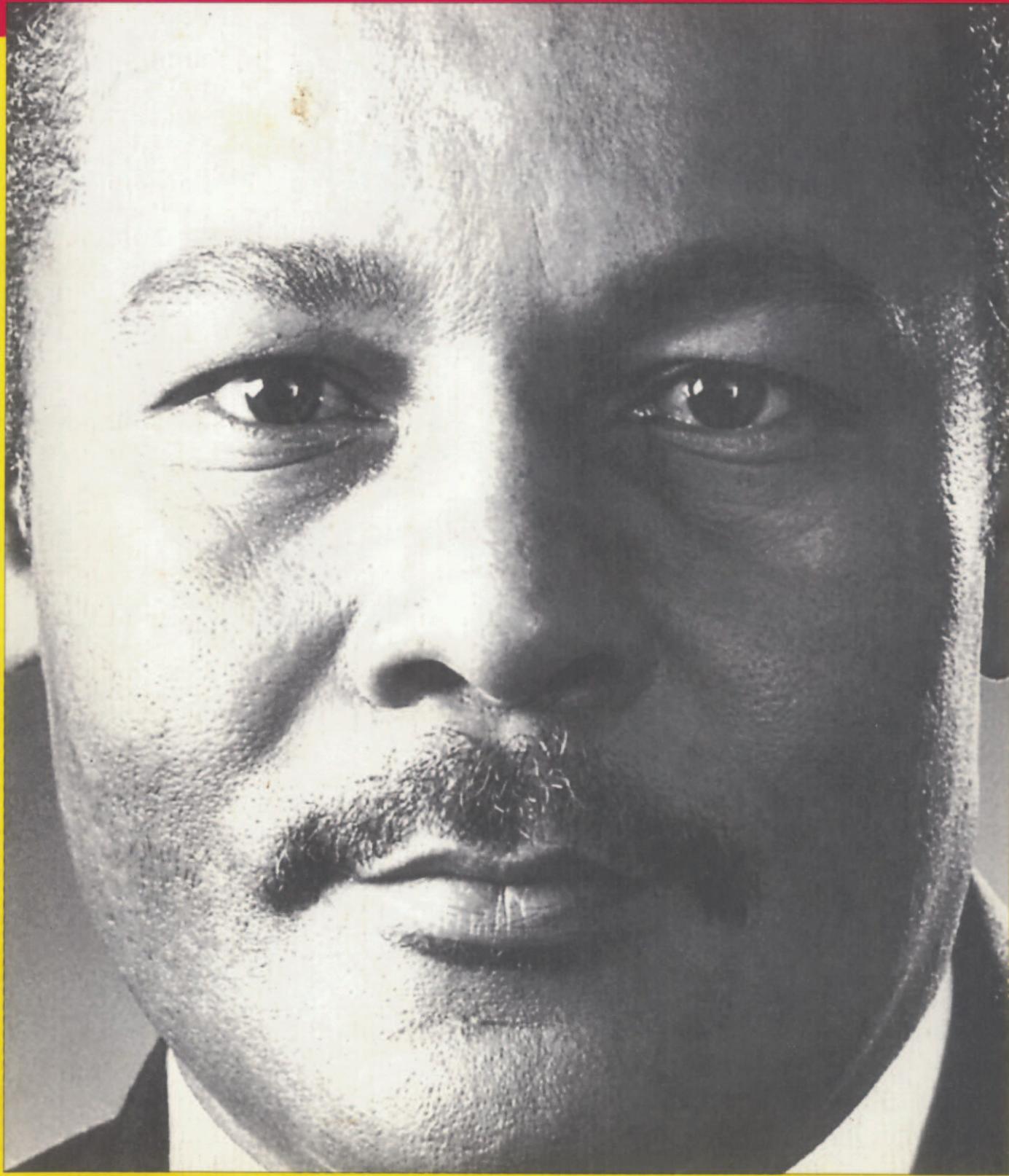


BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY 1994 MANIFESTO



BLP *Your* CHOICE *For* CHANGE



**YOUR CHOICE FOR
CHANGE**



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CHANGE AND CHOICE

OWEN ARTHUR
BLP LEADER

The future of Barbados cannot possibly be permitted to be a continuation of the bleakness of its recent past or of its perilous present circumstances.

Fortunately, you, the people, have already made it unmistakably clear that it is your intention to change the government which is guilty of such betrayal of your trust.

You have done this by word and deed since 1991, when you took to the streets in your tens of thousands in mass demonstrations against the outgoing DLP administration.

Those demonstrations were the genesis of a national People's Crusade, in which the historic No-Confidence Vote of June 7 was essentially an expression of the collective will of the Barbadian people.

The culmination of the People's Crusade will come on September 6, when you will vote for the Candidate of your choice and, in so doing,

It is only through the full development of the potential of our people that we will be able to meet the needs, expectations and aspirations of all our people; and to put our country in a strong position to compete with the best of the world, and to be strategically placed for entry into the twenty first century.



elect the political organisation to which you will entrust the government of your country, for the constitutionally defined five year term of office.

Your decision will be determined by the credibility you attach to the candidates and parties seeking your vote, and by your belief in our ability, and in our intention, to deliver on the undertakings we give during the election campaign, particularly those undertakings defined in the respective Manifestos for which we seek your endorsement.

In this context, the DLP's premeditated and brazen repudiation of their own Manifesto was a betrayal of the people's trust which disqualifies from serious

consideration any promises they now offer the Barbadian people.

On the other hand, the NDP has presented a cornucopia of utopian promises which underlines that Party's utter remoteness from economic reality.

The Barbados Labour Party resolutely avoids any excess in the perspectives, policies and programmes which we present to you.

The directions outlined in this Manifesto were defined by the collective insight of Barbadians representing all relevant disciplines, and from all sectors of the national community.

This has all been synthesized in a Charter For Change which envisages a transformation of the Barbadian economy driven by our unwavering confidence in the talent and enterprise of the Barbadian people, and of our young people in particular.

Our key strategy is to unleash your creativity and energy and your enterprise, particularly the enterprise of our young people, by providing all of you with the means and the abilities to enable you to realise your immense potential, and to ensure that every one of you is afforded the opportunity to be everything you aspire to be, and to ensure that no social circumstance should be permitted to limit the extent of your aspirations.

It is only through optimisation of our human capital that Barbados will be able to tap into the opportunities which exist in the international economy.

It is only through the full development of the potential of our people that we will be able to meet the needs, expectations and aspirations of all our people; and to put our country in a strong position

to compete with the best of the world, and to be strategically placed for entry into the twenty first century.

That is what the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto is all about.

Above all, the ideal of social justice and genuine economic enfranchisement is fundamental to the BLP's perspectives on our society.

We submit to you our Charter for Change.

Should the BLP be elected to form the new government of Barbados, we will table this Manifesto

Should the BLP be elected to form the new government, we will table this Manifesto in Parliament, as a working policy document of the government of Barbados.

in Parliament, as a working policy document.

I thank you for the encouragement and support which you have been giving so generously to our Candidates in every constituency.

We ask you to continue to support the Barbados Labour Party candidate in your constituency, and to endorse the strategies and objectives which are defined in this Manifesto.

Finally, we ask you to give formal legal effect to your participation in the people's crusade by voting for the BLP Candidate in your Constituency on September 6.

NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The challenge of transforming Barbados into a dynamic, prosperous and stable democracy capable of sustaining a high quality of life for all its people, which is our principal objective, is of immense dimensions. If we are to respond to this challenge and direct it for our people's benefit, it is crucial that the entire national community commits itself to a number of national objectives.

The BLP considers the following national objectives to be fundamental if Barbados is to achieve a strong, strategic position in the global community of nations as we approach the 21st century.

- Full economic enfranchisement for every Barbadian.
- The restoration of the economy to a position of buoyancy and sustainable growth.
- The creation of sustainable job opportunities for all our citizens and for our young people in particular.
- The unleashing of the creativity and energies of our people, especially our young people, in positive activities and lifestyles such as sport and culture.
- The maintenance of the stability of the Barbados dollar at its present value in relation to the United States dollar.
- The protection of the entitlements of all workers, notably public service workers, particularly in relation to their pay levels and their severance and retirement benefits.
- The establishment of Barbados as a leading offshore services centre in such areas as banking, fund management, captive insurance and informatics.
- The establishment of a knowledge-based culture.
- The positioning of Barbados as a premier quality destination.
- The establishment of Barbados as a premier eco-tourism destination
- The management of our natural resources for the benefit of the Barbadian people.
- The restoration of Barbados as a society governed by laws which are appropriate to our traditions, our culture and our times to ensure equality before the law and fairness in the administration of justice.
- The positioning of Barbados in regional and international communities so that its voice is heard and its words respected.
- The creation of a just, humane and compassionate society in which we respect our women and take care of our elderly.
- Accountability of all public officials to the people and the maintenance of integrity in our private and public lives.

NEW ECONOMIC DIRECTION

Our key strategy will be to unleash the talent, energy and enterprise of our people by providing them with the means and abilities to compete in the international economy.

We see Barbados evolving outside of the shackles of the International Monetary Fund, and we will release the Barbadian economy from the IMF's structural adjustment programme.

We are committed to a strong, stable economy, a strong stable currency, strong, stable, prudent but innovative fiscal policies geared to achieving the technological capability which will fuel a take off in our economy.

In a country the size of Barbados and with a population of a quarter of a million, it is a catastrophe of major proportions when over 30,000 persons, or fully one-quarter of the labour force, have no jobs.

We will support a dynamic private sector, but we also see the state taking on the responsibility for the creation of a culture of excellence in human resource development and as a catalyst in mobilizing savings in support of productive enterprises, particularly of small businesses.

In addition to laying a strong foundation for the rapid empowerment of the Barbadian people we will act speedily to reduce the cost of doing business in all sectors.

Parallel with these measures, the new BLP Government will take immediate steps to lower the cost of energy for industrial consumers.

The objective of our programme is to ensure the competitiveness of our manufacturing sector and to make Barbados a more attractive jurisdiction for financial institutions, and a highly desirable location for local and foreign investors.

We will explore to the fullest Barbados' potential to be-

come a full fledged service economy.

Pivotal to the reconstruction of the Barbados economy will be the rehabilitation of the traditional and mainstream productive sectors, particularly manufacturing and agriculture, whose contribution is essential to Barbados' economic health.

In the overall economic transformation envisaged by the Barbados Labour Party, we see an acute need for financial reform. We will therefore create new instruments through which the Barbadian people can save and invest in this country.

We will use debt instruments to help finance businesses. We will also use venture capital to assist in small business development. Our objective is also to ensure that Barbadians who have ideas will have access to credit.

We will seize new opportunities which now await us in retail business, in construction and in the financial sectors of the local economy to enable us to utilise to the fullest the excess capacity and liquidity which are available.

When all of our options are mobilized, we will be on the way to putting significant numbers of people back to work.

But to us it is fundamental that economic development in this society takes place in the context of social justice. In the perspective of the BLP, economic enfranchisement and empowerment do not mean just the sale of shares to the public, or nominal appointments to Boards of Directors for a few people.

The wealth of Barbados must be fairly shared among all of its citizens and those now excluded or denied must be given every opportunity and means to be a central part of the new economic order.

ECONOMIC POLICY AND JOB CREATION

JOB # 1 is JOBS

The DLP does not create jobs. It destroys them. It accepts jobless growth as the fate of this country.

The Barbados Labour Party accepts the challenge of creating full employment. We do not need the dictation or the supervision of the IMF and we will not devalue the Barbados dollar.

Technological change and our highly educated and motivated labour force have positioned us to compete with the rest of the world.

We can reduce unemployment in this country to negligible proportions by putting into effect the following three pronged strategy:

- existing international business and technological conditions create an environment within which Barbados can fully develop relying on its export of services and becoming the leading services economy in the Caribbean. We intend to take advantage of a dynamic information processing industry, a fully fledged off shore financial sector and a tourism sector with new dimensions that take it significantly beyond sea and sand.
- the successful implementation of an export-led strategy in the area of services will allow us to reactivate the excess capacity in the distributive trades, construction, and generally in the economy where potential exists for increased jobs and also enable us to rebuild our manufacturing and agricultural sectors.
- current experience worldwide demonstrates the tremendous contribution to the economy of the development of a small business sector.

This sector enjoys certain obvious advantages. The capital required for start up is low; it can easily find niches. The development of small business will be critical to the success of any programme of import substitution in Barbados. Marketing, financial and other institutional supports must be provided for this sector.

These broad strategies must be supported by the following policies consistently applied:

- the reduction of the cost of doing business by reducing indirect taxes
- removal of taxes on inputs for investment and exports to enable new enterprises to be formed and existing ones to be expanded
- realistic interest rates and energy pricing policies
- the removal of administrative and other impediments
- making it possible for local producers particularly in agriculture and manufacturing to be able to be competitive regionally
- facilitating the transfer of technology by use of joint ventures
- Human resource development and training policies implemented with a view to the creation of centres of excellence and to generate skills necessary to support and expand a service economy
- financial reform to better mobilise savings and investment to deepen and broaden the capital markets and especially to cater to the need of non-traditional businesses in Barbados
- Public investment programmes particularly to



YOUR CHOICE FOR CHANGE

create industries out of the protection and enhancement of the environment

- development of the eco-tourism potential
- broadening of the infrastructure in areas that can support the economy, such as the Carlisle Bay project and other activities which can stimulate private sector development and foreign exchange earnings
- generally creating a climate of investor confidence in all sectors, by following policies that allow people to realise a reasonable rate of return on their investment and their ability to operate within an environment in which parameters of public policy are known, transparent and fair, rather than whimsical and discriminatory as is the case at present

We will:

- set up an export development fund
- establish a science and technology development fund for projects leading to new projects and new services
- reduce taxation as a business cost that inhibits economic expansion and prevents job creation
- establish a special regime for foreign currency earners in order to develop a strong export-led services sector.

BUSINESS AND THE ECONOMY

We will implement a series of measures to create a business friendly environment which will be conducive to new investment, both foreign and local.

A Barbados Labour Party Government will not devalue the Barbados dollar.

We will:

- provide incentives for all forms of foreign currency generation
- privatise public sector operations to ensure commercial management and to broaden the base of ownership
- reduce taxation and simplify tax collection making it more equitable and more efficient and less expensive to administer
- encourage the development of the offshore services and informatics sector to its fullest potential.
- introduce special tax concessions for small business
- liberalise exchange controls and implement other measures to encourage foreign investment in Barbados and to stimulate foreign currency generation by local businesses.
- enact new insolvency legislation to give adequate protection to workers and creditors
- ensure the accountability and efficiency of all monopoly utilities and re-examine their relationships with other multi-national providers.

The BLP will pursue an on-going and active dialogue and consultation with the private sector and with representatives of labour to ensure that all productive foreign currency generating activities are given full support.

Specifically, a BLP government will carry out the following measures as they relate to the strategy:

SMALL BUSINESS

Barbadians must be encouraged to own their own businesses as part and parcel of efforts at economic enfranchisement.

The Barbados Labour Party recognises the increasingly important role which small businesses play in the Barbadian economy. It is envisaged that with the right thrust from a Barbados Labour Party government, the small business sector has the potential to grow at a faster pace than other sectors of the economy.

One of the major advantages of small business is that it is the most efficient way of creating jobs. Industrialised countries have long recognised the importance of small business to economic growth. These countries have put the necessary institutions and measures in place to facilitate their development. We intend to use such an approach.

Our objectives are:

- to facilitate the growth and development of a small business sector
- to develop a cadre of self employed persons
- to encourage entrepreneurship among Barbadians
- to reduce the level of unemployment
- to encourage the development of indigenous goods and services

To meet these objectives:

- we will review the delivery of current programmes for small businesses to ensure that they reach their target group and are delivered efficiently
- we will establish a Venture Capital Fund that will provide loan and equity capital
- we will encourage the growth of alternative sources of capital for small businesses.
- we will inject funds into the Livestock Development project to assist small livestock farmers and livestock food producers.
- we will provide technical assistance for small businesses engaged in the production of new goods and services.

VENDORS

A BLP Government will seek as a matter of urgency to establish permanent vendors' sites, with adequate sanitary facilities in and around Bridgetown and off the highways.

Existing produce markets will be refurbished and brought up to modern day standards of retailing. Craft markets will be established in Bridgetown, Speightstown, Oistins and Holetown.

- we will cooperate with the financial institutions and the small business sector in the development of programmes to provide capital to small enterprises.
- we will assist such businesses in areas of research and development, financial management and with obtaining legal and other services.
- we will provide facilities and terminals for route taxis within the Bridgetown area.
- we will exercise leadership and challenge the banks and other financial institutions to help small businesses to find the capital they need.
- we will grant duty free concessions on equipment for setting up viable small manufacturing and export businesses.
- we will review the regulations and laws relating to small businesses (particularly taxis, route taxis, minibuses and vendors) to ensure that these businesses can operate within the framework of the law.
- we will facilitate and encourage the use of the Small Business Guarantee Scheme presently available at the Central Bank.
- we will review the curriculum of schools to ensure that certain aspects of business are taught in secondary schools.

We will encourage Barbadian enterprises, especially small businesses, to adopt an aggressive trading mentality so as to take full advantage of export markets.

DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE

The distributive trade sector is an integral part of the economy of the country. It encompasses

every retailer from the street vendor to the department store operator. A vibrant distributive trade sector is the conduit to successful and prosperous manufacturing, tourism and agricultural industries. It plays a vital role in the provision of thousands of jobs in our economy.

We will encourage those areas of the distributive sector that promote local industrial and agricultural products. And special incentives will be provided for marketing activities established overseas for the purpose of promoting Barbadian products.

A Barbados Labour Party Government will also re-examine the present duty free shopping scheme to ensure that small retailers are given an equal chance of trading in Duty Free Goods to visitors.

TAXATION

The level of taxation is too high. As a consequence it is expensive to do business in Barbados. This in turn prevents economic expansion and job creation. Taxes must be reduced in order to re-energise the economy and bring the measure of relief to the population.

Our strategies will enable the export sectors to operate with relatively low rates of taxation, thereby allowing for the restructuring of direct economic activity, and level the playing field in order to make our products competitive once again on the regional and extra-regional markets.

Lower levels of taxation are a necessary precondition for the development of small business and the creation of employment. At the household level lower taxes will create opportunities for increased savings and for the achievement of desirable social objectives.

We will:

- remove taxes on inputs into the tourism, manufacturing, agriculture and fisheries sectors.
- re-examine the planned introduction of the VAT to ensure that any such system meets the needs for Barbados in reducing the level of indirect taxation and its cost of collection. Indirect taxes such as consumption tax and stamp duties will be reduced or eliminated so that the total tax take is decreased.
- encourage home ownership and maintenance with the immediate reintroduction of income tax allowances on :
 - mortgage interest
 - repairs and maintenance
 - home insurance

to a maximum package of \$15,000 a year, and resumption of the practice of reducing the land tax rate after each triennial assessment so that the impact of this tax should not continue to be unnecessarily burdensome.

- review all tax incentive legislation to include foreign currency generation from all sources.
- establish a small business rate of corporation tax.
- provide tax relief for investors in registered venture capital funds.
- remove taxation on pensions to the extent of the first \$3,000 per month, this provision being index-linked to protect pensioners from inflation.

- abolish the tax on foreign sourced pensions
- abolish the tax on interest earned on savings of persons over age 60.
- reduce the consumption duties on motor vehicles.
- abolish Property Transfer Tax on property transfers arising upon the breakdown of a marriage.
- carry out a comprehensive review of the Income Tax Act to remove anomalies where hardship or inequity can be demonstrated.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

The DLP never enjoyed the investor confidence necessary to attract to Barbados foreign investment at the levels required for substantial expansion and job creation in the economy.

A Barbados Labour Party Government will employ a number of strategies to make this country attractive once more to the foreign investor.

- we are committed to the right of foreign investors to repatriate income and capital and on a timely basis. We will institute mechanisms to ensure continuity of policy
- we will negotiate investment agreements with Canada and the USA
- we will encourage the development of joint ventures to access foreign markets. We will make increased use of international franchises and licences to expand the economic base
- we will liberalise the exchange control regime in order to make the operation of foreign exchange accounts more effective.

- we are committed to consistent, stable and transparent policies which limit the scope for executive discretion and raise the confidence of the potential investor in the integrity and continuity of policy affecting business decisions.
- we will initiate fast-tracking procedures within Government to ensure that all potential foreign investors are dealt with promptly and establish a one stop shop to ensure that impediments to prompt service are removed.
- we will institute prudent fiscal and monetary policies to maintain the current rate of exchange rate with the US dollar.
- we will provide significant additional Government funding for the development of this sector.
- we will ensure that telecommunications services, which are of strategic significance in enabling this industry to be internationally competitive, are competitive in both costs and technology
- we will re-examine work permit procedures to ensure they are timely and responsive to the industry and that there is transparency in the issue and revocation of permits.
- we will negotiate a network of double tax treaties as a priority and a part of our overall strategic positioning.

OFF-SHORE SERVICES AND THE INFORMATICS INDUSTRY

The potential for growth makes this industry a key sector in our economic development. It has continued to grow despite Governmental neglect for most of the past eight years.

Much more can be achieved by appropriate and aggressive marketing strategies supported by the removal of administrative impediments to doing business.

- we will establish a new Ministry of International Business which will be responsible for developing legislative and marketing programmes to make us a world leader in a focused niche within the international market place. In addition the role of the bureaucracy will be re-engineered to meet the needs of a complex and sophisticated world-wide market place.
- we will seek advice from competent full-time professionals and world class consultants on new marketing strategy.

- we will introduce legislation to develop and maintain a diverse range of products suitable for use by international businesses. These will include an international maritime registry, provision for exempt mutual companies, exempt limited partnerships and international trusts.
- we will review the International Business Companies Act as it impacts on local participation.
- we will ensure that Barbados is positioned to anticipate and respond to technological changes and to supply qualified people to service software development units.
- we will ensure that only genuine offshore business is conducted and we will remain ever vigilant against the use of Barbados by those seeking to evade the laws of other countries. We recognise that if ever we should be compromised it will fundamentally undermine the industry.

TOURISM

Tourism is the principal engine for economic development and a number of measures will be introduced to facilitate its achievement of its maximum potential both as an earner of foreign exchange and as a provider of jobs. These will include:

- revitalising the Barbados Tourism Authority, making it accountable and a contributor to a focused marketing thrust centered on a private sector marketing force.
- policing policy to improve the safety and security of tourists will be developed in consultation with the sector.
- development of Heritage assets with attention being given to themed activity and entertainment, supporting the role of the National Trust in the management and development of our heritage assets and implementing projects for the restoration and redevelopment of both Bridgetown and Speightstown as the principal thrusts in recapturing some of the ground lost in heritage tourism
- easier access to the duty-free regime for small business
- tourism marketing to include efforts to convert cruise ship passengers to future stop-over visitors and to reposition Barbados as a quality destination
- incentives for hotels extending facilities to cater to conventions
- development of marinas in both Bridgetown and Speightstown
- renovation and expansion of the airport will include the provision of all- weather facilities
- hotel classification consistent with international standards
- emphasis on tourism education and management development in tertiary education with specially designed courses including tourism development studies
- significantly increased funds for tourism promotion
- training of workers in the hospitality industry
- adequate provision of facilities for beach vendors

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT

Persistent and sustained negotiation with international airlines will be instituted to increase the airline traffic to or from Barbados and to open new gateways such as the Far East.

Negotiations with additional carriers to fly the US/Barbados routes are essential to turn around our continuing years of decline in the US market which is our biggest and most important.

We will seek to negotiate recognition of a regional carrier.

Other Economic Strategies

A BLP Government will:

- negotiate with CARICOM to remove impediments to the sale of services and to outlaw dumping of manufactured products.
- seek to negotiate a tax treaty which will not compromise our offshore industry but will allow Barbadian businesses to expand within CARICOM.
- strive for free movement of capital and labour within the community and Guyana in her efforts to achieve economic development.
- carry out a detailed review of all labour laws in consultation with business and trade union leaders.
- promote research into suitable crops with sustainable and profitable export potential and provide specific support to the development of facilities to aid the export of cut flowers.
- introduce insolvency legislation to facilitate the restructuring of financially troubled companies and to protect the interests of workers
- amend existing legislation in accordance with international standards to require greater accountability from directors of public companies and managers of public enterprises
- re-examine the contracts with international companies involved in our sugar industry and, where appropriate, renegotiate such contracts
- establish a dedicated school of computer science to produce programmers and analysts and

provide financial support for the promotion of computer awareness throughout the education system by introducing extensive teacher training courses to make nationwide computer literacy a reality

Public Sector

An efficient and motivated public sector is an essential pre-requisite for an efficient and motivated private sector in our society.

A BLP Government will:

- stimulate the development of a service culture in the public sector by the selective use of new management techniques such as Total Quality Management (TQM) and by systems enhancement, including computerisation
- upgrade key posts in the public sector where the provision of private sector salaries will allow us to employ the "brightest and the best"
- ensure that the reporting and accountability of statutory corporations is improved
- restructure the Barbados National Bank to ensure that it acts commercially within its mandate
- redefine the role and function of the Barbados Development Bank.

Telecommunications

Cheap and reliable telecommunications services are essential not only for social intercourse but especially for economic development.

This is particularly the case when the economy becomes service oriented and its successful expansion

sion depends on obtaining the objective of becoming a **centre of excellence**.

The new emphases in our economic policy require that an end be put immediately to the business-as-usual approach which characterised the dealings of the DLP Government with this vital area of the national interest.

We will prepare a study of the telecommunications industry and the needs of Barbados over the next decade. We will negotiate with local service providers to ensure access to state-of-the-art technologies at internationally competitive prices.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing has been an important contributor to the earning of foreign exchange. The DLP denied this sector assistance in its bid to penetrate foreign markets and imposed punitive levels of taxation which almost destroyed it.

A BLP Government will remove all duties on the inputs for manufacturing. The sector will also benefit by the liberal regime for foreign exchange earners. Recovery in the sector will largely depend on producing **specialty products for niche markets**. A BLP Government fully supports this strategy. Other measures which we will implement are:

- we will strengthen the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation and improve its ability to foster industrial development through its facilitation of new investment in productive enterprises and increasing the level of exports of Barbadian goods and services.
- we will facilitate and promote meaningful linkages between reputable foreign companies and suitable local counterparts.
- we will implement a meaningful trade and in-

vestment programme in Europe to maximise opportunities for securing inward investment, technical assistance, and increasing exports of Barbadian goods and services.

- we will explore non-traditional markets for Barbadian goods and services
- we will establish a permanent exhibition of exportable Barbadian products
- we will assist with the development of indigenous industries in order to maximise the export potential of clay products, rum, rum-based products, processed fish, exotic food products etc.
- the Barbados National Standards Institute will be strengthened and directed to introduce a number of mandatory standards in order to protect the Barbadian consumer from inferior products and the local manufacturers from unfair competition
- Pelican Industrial Park will be rehabilitated to make it into a showpiece for shopping and the best of Barbadian arts and crafts.

The New Agriculture and Land Use

Agriculture will benefit from the removal of duties on inputs. Sugar has been this sector's most reliable foreign exchange earner over the years. In eight years the sugar crop has declined from **111,000 tonnes** to **50,000 tonnes** and is set for further decline.

A Barbados Labour Party Government will seek to renegotiate the contract with the present managers of the sugar industry to ensure the industry's operation within the context of re-defined national interests and new production targets.

Proposals for factory closures must be reviewed and discussions initiated on a new regime for **marketing** generally and for accessing the market for **special sugars**.

A BLP Government will restructure the agency currently charged with the management of government lands to ensure its competence in fostering the development of a new class of farmer. Among the measures it will have to administer are:

- the provision of lands to landless farmers
- promotion of **biological**, and not chemical, control of insect pests on lands falling in **water zone 1**
- supporting farmers' co-ops both for marketing and for the reorganisation of extension/support services
- revitalising the **Scotland District** Programme and bringing a halt to the abandonment which has caused the degradation of this important area of Barbados to accelerate
- support of the efforts of farmers both in relation to new **export** enterprises and the **feeding of the nation**

The land use policy will have as a primary objective the retention and the return to use of a sizeable acreage of arable relatively flat lands in the agriculture sector. Demands for other land use will generally be satisfied without any reduction in the acreage that is determined to be critical for a vibrant sector.

Change of use applications involving major projects will be considered by the Chief Town Planner only after an Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken. Where a favourable decision would be in conflict with the Land Use Policy a **public enquiry** will be held.

Fisheries

The most urgent need of the fisheries industry is the negotiation of a fair and **sensible fisheries agreement** with Trinidad and Tobago. The DLP has been unable to negotiate an agreement within whose terms our fisheries industry can function.

A new BLP Government will enter immediately into negotiations for a viable agreement. This is not the only urgent need of the industry. Proper maintenance of the fishing harbours and other facilities and the provision of ice for the fishing fleet have proved to be beyond the competence of the DLP.

We will build a **modern fishing harbour at Speightstown** and a new facility at Weston. We will upgrade existing facilities at **Consett Bay** and **Skeetes Bay**.

We will provide training and assistance for the improvement of fishing techniques and for modernising boats and equipment.

STATE ENTERPRISES

We reject the notion that state owned enterprises are an unmitigated evil to be got rid of at all costs. In addition we give no support to those who believe that the sale of the family silver is a viable alternative to earning foreign exchange.

We believe that state enterprises have a contribution to make to the national well being, especially in the context of policies which seek to empower the mass of the people by broadening the base of ownership in the economy.

Where they are performing a purely commercial function we will sell equity in these enterprises giving priority to employees of the enterprises and to small investors who have not traditionally been offered opportunity for such investment.

We will build appropriate safeguards into our divestment programme to ensure that workers, credit unions and other small investors are fully protected in their ownership and cannot readily be divested by speculators looking for quick profits.

But some of these enterprises perform critical services in the national interest. Where this is the case, e.g. with the Transport Board or the Sanitation Services Authority, we will ensure that they are efficiently managed so that the Barbadian people may receive a reliable service at reasonable cost.

Whereas in the case of the Barbados National Oil Company that interest is purely economic we will encourage joint ventures as an effective way of acquiring skills, technology and assistance generally.

In all state enterprises we will support initiatives by management to contract out parts of the operation and to implement any other measures that will result in greater efficiency without sacrificing the service the enterprise was established to provide.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Charter for Youth

Unemployment impacts heaviest on the youth. With 24.4% stated as the unemployment rate, 61.4% of the youth between ages 16 and 19 have no jobs. The younger the person, the greater the impact of adverse circumstances.

Our programme for the youth therefore emphasises discipline, a sense of community, a national sense of purpose, provision of skills for living and the inculcation of a culture of work.

National Youth Development Programme

The new Barbados Labour Party Government will establish a National Youth Development Programme comprising an expanded Barbados Youth Service and the inclusion in the schools' curricula of a number of core subjects taught over a two-year period.

There will be a broad-based committee comprising social workers, teachers, PTA members, church and youth representatives, employers and unions to decide on the core subjects and related matters.

The technical and vocational training programme

outside of the secondary schools and the polytechnic and the skills training programme will be integrated into the national youth development programme.

Institutional arrangements are the focus of currently existing departments catering to the youth. We will change this focus. We will reform the institutions to engender in our young people a sense of equity in the provision of social services and opportunity.

At the core of our youth policy is a **crusade for the renewal of hope and confidence in our youth**.

Commission of Social Justice

The new BLP Government will establish a co-ordinated programme under a **Commission of Social Justice** which will comprise all of the social agencies - Community Development Department, Child Care Board, Welfare Department, Non-Governmental Organisations and the Barbados Landship.

In addition there will be a pool of persons trained in special disciplines and operating nationwide to whom deviant and troubled persons needing guidance will be referred.

Instead of 29 community development aides whose focus is taking care of buildings, we will retrain these persons and redirect their focus to permit them to function as Youth Commissioners on the ground across Barbados.

The island will be divided into zones, and then smaller districts, to ensure that Youth Commissioners are capable of knowing and supervising all young persons between the ages of **5 and 25**.

A core of persons at the Community Development Department will liaise with the National Cultural Foundation, the National Sports Council and community and church groups in order to establish **developmental workshops on a permanent basis**.

Youth Commissioners will coordinate programmes designed to involve people of all ages, especially **senior citizens** and those in the 7-15 age group, in community based activities.

Youth Entrepreneurs Scheme

We will establish a **Youth Entrepreneurs Scheme (YES)** to stimulate employment among young people by allowing them to establish their own enterprises in order to encourage a sense of business among young people. It will have available to it a package of assistance (grants, credit and technical assistance) to help convert ideas into economic activity.

Other measures will include:

- the establishment of a special **national order** rewarding young persons for excellence in community based service

- creation of a fiscal and legislative environment to **expand cultural and sports-based industries** since most persons employed in these industries are usually under the age of thirty years
- increased technical and financial assistance to **non-governmental organisations** who already play a valuable role in the delivery of youth policy, for example Barbados Family Planning Association, PAREDOS, the Salvation Army, the Barbados Landship, the Barbados Dance Theatre, YMCA, YWCA
- establishment of **special adolescent clinics** within the existing polyclinics
- * assisting young persons in the **reorganisation and strengthening** of the Barbados Youth Council as a body representative of young persons.

NATIONAL HEROES DAY

We know that our country was built by persons whom we commonly refer to as our heroes. As a people, we need to know who these people are. When we set aside a single day to celebrate them we seek to inculcate in our young people respect for important values and for the achievements that have helped to shape the lives of us all.

We will establish a non-partisan committee to identify our national heroes and will set aside a day in the annual calendar to be a public holiday in celebration of all our national heroes.

EDUCATION

The thrust of our educational policy will be towards making the Barbadian competitive in all areas of human endeavour.

We will therefore place greater emphasis on technical and vocational pursuits to ensure that every child on leaving school is possessed of skills which qualify him or her for the world of work.

We will standardise nursery and primary education and teach foreign languages at an early age. We aim to make every Barbadian conversant in at least one language other than English to take advantage of the opportunities offered by a service economy.

Flexible Approach to Examinations

The Common Entrance Examination will be continued, but **children will be allowed to sit it when they are ready.**

The examination will still be geared to Age 11 but the new rules will take account of the differing levels of development often evidenced by children of the same age.

At both primary and secondary levels we will emphasize **special education needs teaching** and a flexible approach to examinations.

Children are possessed of different abilities and need to be exposed to different curricula. We will decentralise the system so that schools' curricula may develop in a variety of ways and the institutions themselves can develop into centres of excellence in different fields of study.

The University of the West Indies

We remain firmly committed to financing tertiary and other levels of education. To accommodate the skill requirements of our society, and especially **to achieve our aim of making this society a services centre of excellence we will expand the support we at present provide for the UWI.**

Included in our strategies for achieving our goals will be:

- the appointment of a Teaching Service Comission
- expanding the scope and function of the Barbados Community College and assisting it in obtaining accreditation by institutions of repute for its programmes
- expanding the work of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and building a second polytechnic in the north of the island
- maintaining the UWI as a centre of excellence

Sports AND CULTURE

SPORTS

The Barbados Labour Party recognises that sport is not only for recreation but is capable of generating employment, self discipline and national pride principally in our youth. While there are no age barriers that preclude our taking pride in our sports people and giving them support, it is the young people who are directly involved in physically demanding sports.

We will construct **multi-purpose mini-stadia**, one each for the north, south and central parts of the island, will be constructed.

Other measures will include:

- **reduction** of duties on sporting equipment
- enactment of crowd control and safety legislation
- provision of an **astro turf** surface for hockey
- establishment of a **National Hall of Fame**
- promoting the involvement of more young people in athletic programmes
- encouraging and networking commercial interest in sports development
- awarding National Development Scholarships in **sporting disciplines**
- **increased contributions** to national sporting organisations
- establishment of a national committee to revitalise all areas of sport in order to bring it into the main stream in the shortest possible time

Arts and Culture are recognised as an area of business with significant potential for employment and earning foreign exchange. While people of all ages are involved, the majority of persons who make their living in this area tends to be young. Arts and Culture also add value to the Hospitality industry and promise increased foreign currency earnings through the development of cultural industries.

We will:

- establish a **Heritage Foundation**
- **structure** the National Cultural Foundation to meet both the developmental and promotional needs of our cultural programme and cultural industries
- channel all monies received from the Betting and Gaming Commission into development of sport and culture
- promote cultural tourism
- enact new Copyright legislation
- expand training in the **visual and performing arts**
- market Barbados as an **international centre** for the performing arts and recording industry
- encourage **freedom of movement** for artists and entertainers
- put the administration of national festivals on a proper financial footing
- support the Museum and other key national organisations active in the development, preservation and promotion of our culture

- develop the Empire Theatre as a centre for the performing arts
- promote the provision of cultural facilities including a modern and well-equipped National Art Gallery as a home for the national art collection
- resume the development of the Church Village area of Bridgetown and designate it an area for the arts
- establish **multi-purpose facilities** across the island for sport and culture
- require television stations to broadcast more local and regional programming
- abolish entertainment tax on dances and local productions
- reduce duties on all musical equipment and other inputs into cultural industries
- establish a promotional fund for the export of Barbadian arts, in particular music, and film.

The **film industry** is a billion dollar industry. Our objective will be to make it a major foreign exchange earner for Barbados.

SOCIAL POLICY

LABOUR RELATIONS

Our labour relations policies are not designed to impose unreasonable conditions on those who invest their money to expand the economy and create jobs.

However, we are committed to the fair treatment of workers in their workplace, the provision of opportunities for training and for advancement based on merit and the protection of workers'

wages and workers' rights against depredations from any source.

Protection of Wages in the Public Sector

The Barbados Labour Party totally rejects the heresy that Government ought to have, either now or at any time in the future, the legal right to reduce the salaries and wages of its employees. The salaries and wages of these employees deserve the same protection as that enjoyed by the salaries and wages of their counterparts in the private sector.

Section 26 of the Constitution saves all laws in existence at Independence Day 1966.

Its existence caused workers' rights to be decimated by an exploitative Government because of the protection it gave to the pre-Independence statute under which the outgoing DLP Government took away increments and reduced salaries and wages by eight per cent.

We will repeal both Section 26 of the Constitution and the offensive pre-Independence statutes.

For the protection of public sector wages and for the proper definition of relationships between employer and employee, we will enact a new Public Service Act and new General Orders.

Never again in this country will it be possible for a Government to reduce the earnings of its employees without their permission.

Victimization, and the fear of victimization, has left many workers afraid to take part in trade union activity. A meeting called after the termination of the appointments of **eight** Immigration Officers, attracted only **seven** persons.

We will protect the dignity of the worker in the workplace and restore his confidence to exercise

his freedom to associate with his colleagues in trade unions as an essential element of stable employer-employee relations.

We will consult with employers and workers before legislating a comprehensive Employment Protection Act and modernising other Labour laws, particularly those relating to occupational health and safety. The public sector will set an example in complying with the law.

We will:

- **review the laws relating to severance to ensure that workers receive adequate protection and that the formula for computing benefits is fair and reasonable**
- restore to seasonal workers the eligibility to receive benefits under the Unemployment Benefit Scheme
- **implement training programmes** which emphasize computer literacy and other skills essential to Barbados' becoming a services centre of excellence
- upgrade the Unemployment Exchange and establish regional sub-offices
- regulate the operation of private employment agencies
- encourage worker participation schemes
- provide incentives to encourage firms to broaden their ownership by offering their employees shares
- establish programmes for monitoring manpower needs
- seek additional jobs on Farm Labour Programmes

The Devaluation of Barbados - The New Poor

After eight years of DLP rule a serious **devaluation** in the quality of life and the creation of a category of the **new poor** have emerged as the greatest challenges to the creation of social development programmes.

The new Barbados Labour Party Government will commit itself to determining the extent of this new poverty and the status of persons who have lost their jobs and providing the means for their re-entry into the economy in a productive capacity.

We will put people first and in this context will ensure a strong safety net to alleviate the hardships to which our more vulnerable citizens are exposed.

Our policies will focus on **upliftment of living standards among the poor by creating opportunities for raising income levels**.

Strategies will include :

- access to training and retraining
- job counselling
- credit to support small enterprises
- land reform
- encouragement at community level of cooperatives for business development.
- community based self-help schemes

The Safety Net

Welfare grants, old age pensions, unemployment benefits, contributory pensions, child care facilities and the like are now insufficiently funded to function as a safety net. State-sponsored retraining programmes are practically non-existent. The uniform grant for students entering secondary school is now threatened with extinction.

YOUR CHOICE FOR CHANGE



CANDIDATES



OWEN ARTHUR
Leader of the BLP
Your Candidate for St. Peter



MIA MOTTELEY
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. MICHAEL NORTH EAST



ISHMAEL ROETT
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. MICHAEL CENTRAL



CARLISLE BEST
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. MICHAEL NORTH WEST



RUDOLPH GREENIDGE
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. PHILIP NORTH



JEESSICA ODLE
YOUR CANDIDATE for ST.
MICHAEL EAST



DeLISLE BRADSHAW
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. MICHAEL SOUTH EAST



YOUR CHOICE FOR CHANGE



BERNARD ST. JOHN
FORMER PRIME MINISTER
YOUR CANDIDATE for
CHRIST CHURCH SOUTH



CANDIDATES



JOSEPH EDGHILL
YOUR CANDIDATE for CHRIST
CHURCH WEST CENTRAL



ANTHONY OLTON
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. MICHAEL WEST



LIZ THOMPSON
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. JAMES SOUTH



RONALD TOPPIN
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. MICHAEL NORTH



ROMMELL MARSHALL
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. MICHAEL WEST CENTRAL

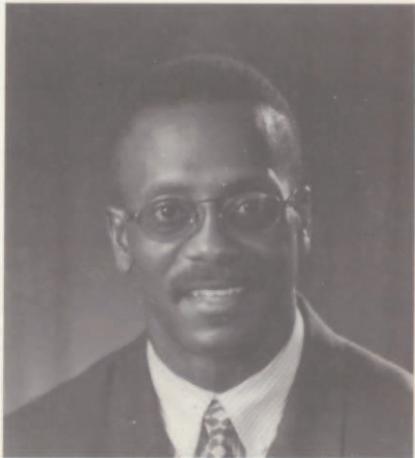


LOUIS TULL
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. GEORGE SOUTH

YOUR CHOICE FOR CHANGE



CANDIDATES



NOEL LYNCH
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. MICHAEL SOUTH



PAT THORINGTON
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. JOHN



HENRY FORDE
FORMER LEADER OF THE BLP
YOUR CANDIDATE for CHRIST
CHURCH WEST



GLINE CLARKE
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. GEORGE NORTH



DAVID GILL
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. MICHAEL SOUTH CENTRAL



DUNCAN CARTER
YOUR CANDIDATE for CHRIST
CHURCH EAST CENTRAL



RICHARD CHELTENHAM
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. JOSEPH



YOUR CHOICE FOR CHANGE



CANDIDATES



PHILIP PILGRIM
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. PHILIP SOUTH



ERROL BABB
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. LUCY



GEORGE PAYNE
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. ANDREW



WENDELL CALLENDER
YOUR CANDIDATE for
CHRIST CHURCH EAST



RAWLE EASTMOND
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. JAMES NORTH



DAVID SIMMONS
YOUR CANDIDATE for
ST. THOMAS



BILLIE MILLER
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE BLP
YOUR CANDIDATE for THE
CITY OF BRIDGETOWN

Children

Current levels of unemployment increase the numbers of children in need of regular support from non-resident fathers and have an adverse effect on both court payments and voluntary payments. Welfare payments are inadequate and the rents in government housing have risen appreciably. Child care services have suffered from cutbacks in government financing. Buildings are dilapidated, staff have been reduced and the quality of care has been adversely affected.

We will offer incentives to private providers of short term and long term care for children at risk.

The Elderly

The elderly have had no relief for many years and the need for increased pensions is urgent. We will immediately **increase Old Age Pensions** and the new National Insurance Board will be mandated to make the consequential increases in Contributory Pensions. We will keep pensioners' grants and allowances under review to protect their standard of living.

We are committed to a programme of more flexible systems of care for the elderly, including less costly and more convenient domiciliary arrangements for those who need health care, but not expensive hospitalisation.

We will also encourage more **flexible domiciliary arrangements** for those who do not wish to reside in a large home for the elderly, but who have been advised not to continue living alone.

We will offer incentives to private sector providers of short-term and long-term care to the elderly.

Other measures will include:

- an authoritative inspectorate to regularise and monitor centres and nursing homes

- expansion and upgrading of the home help service
- extension of day care for the elderly in communities where there are high numbers of senior citizens.

Disabled

Rehabilitation of disabled persons will be a national effort designed to facilitate their utilisation of their natural abilities and their participation in the world of work. We will enact a Building Code which will make the provision of ramps and other aids mandatory in the construction of buildings intended for use by the public. In this and other matters directly affecting their interest, the disabled will be consulted.

The BLP is committed to a series of other measures including:

- Programmes for early detection of disabilities at all health care and early childhood centres
- greater utilisation of the Children's Development Centre
- integration of the disabled child with other children by facilitating their admission to government day care centres
- development of additional units at various schools to enable them to be educated to their full potential and to facilitate their integration with other children
- incentives to encourage their employment
- social security for all disabled persons regardless of age

The Homeless

Homelessness may be related to mental health,

drug use, the incidence of house fires, evictions or plain poverty. Whatever its causes it is a growing social problem in Barbados.

The new BLP Government will:

- give increased subventions and assistance to charitable agencies which provide shelter and care for the homeless and work closely with such agencies to rid the countries of the scourge of homelessness
- provide shelter for those who require it
- also provide appropriate care for the growing number of vagrants
- institute a study to identify all the causes of the problem.

The Family - Special Position of Women

Loss of employment and the reduction in the level

and quality of social services impact heaviest on women, notwithstanding that they are sometimes able to hold on to their jobs, many of which are of low status and pay relatively low wages.

Women head nearly half the households in Barbados and are this country's major providers of care. They are also the usual victims of domestic violence.

We will therefore create self-employment opportunities among women. This directly impacts on family income and the welfare of the family. It allows women the flexibility to undertake their domestic functions simultaneously with their earning roles.

The new BLP Government is committed to initiating and supporting policies which improve the status of women and which strengthen family life in this country. All remaining impediments to equality will be removed. Victims of abuse and rape will be protected by appropriate legislative and other measures.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Barbados Labour Party believes that health is more than the absence of disease. Good health must be sufficient to enable people to lead socially and economically productive lives.

Access to health care is an inviolable right. In the 1950's a BLP Administration built health centres and more recently another established the Polyclinic Network to provide quality primary health care for all Barbadians through preventive, curative and rehabilitative services.

It is on the foundations of enlightened policies, dedicated health professionals, planned development of the health care plant and appropriate lev-

els of maintenance of that plant that Barbados' reputation for high living standards was built and until the visitation of the DLP. Barbados was a leader in the Caribbean in the provision of health care.

A BLP Government will foster programmes of education for both employers and employees on **safety in the work place** in an effort to reduce the incidence of the under-utilisation of protective equipment and the resulting injury to eyes, ears and other parts of the body.

A BLP Government will encourage the promotion of **healthy life styles** in the prevention of disease.

Increased support will be given to the HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention Programme.

We will:

- upgrade and further mechanise the fleet and equipment of the Sanitation Service Authority
- expand the prevention maintenance programmes within the Sanitation Service Authority
- rationalise all departments and programmes dealing with Public Health, e.g. Aedes Aegyptii Programme, Rodent and Animal Control programmes

Substance Abuse

In the past eight years the numbers of patients treated at the Psychiatric Hospital for substance abuse has trebled and cocaine addiction has emerged as a major problem.

A major problem is the meagre provision of rehabilitation programmes, including the programme at St. Joseph's Hospital whose cost puts it beyond the reach of ordinary Barbadians.

The Barbados Labour Party recognises the cost to the society of this escalating problem especially in the absence of adequate facilities for rehabilitation. **A BLP Government will expand existing facilities.**

Available resources are limited and sensible priorities must be established for the best use to be made of these resources.

A BLP Administration will review and rationalise extraordinarily high levels of expenditure such as that committed to the operation of the Lions Eye Centre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital and its further development remain focal to the efficacy of the health care system. The services it provides for patients suffering from chronic disease need to be strengthened and the development of preventive approaches emphasized.

At the same time **overcrowding** of wards and the pressure on facilities to accommodate the elderly indicate that the money available to this hospital must not be reduced.

A BLP Government will review the role of the St. Joseph Hospital and its utilisation within the context of the overall arrangements for health care and the impact which the cost of its operation has on the provision of more urgently needed services and greater efficiencies at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The BLP introduced the home help service for the elderly. The party is mindful of the fact that many of the elderly who are hospitalised do not need expensive hospital care. Less costly and more convenient domiciliary arrangements may be of greater benefit in many instances.

A BLP Government will implement more flexible systems for the provision of appropriate care for the elderly. These systems will be buttressed by **improvements in out-patient care** and in the **rehabilitative services** for the elderly and chronic sick.

The Drug Service cannot function efficiently on an ad hoc basis. **A BLP Government will ensure the oversight of the Drug Service by a broadly based Formulary Committee** thus ensuring that greater consideration is given to the needs of patients.

There is need for greater emphasis to be placed on training at all levels of the health system. A BLP Government will encourage specialisation in

programmes for the **training of nurses**. Training programmes designed to improve the relationship between the Hospital and the wider community will be introduced, as will programmes established in the interest of improved patient care and focusing on the relationship between medical and nursing staff and the patient.

Interference from **dust and noise** is a problem at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Alternative traffic arrangements may have to be considered in the search for a solution to this problem.

Other aspects of a BLP strategy for the more efficient delivery of health care include:

- the improvement of efficiency and the elimination of waste throughout the health care system and particularly within institution
- restructuring of the delivery of mental health services
- improved staffing in critical areas of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital
- decentralisation of the ambulance service

HOUSING

The Barbados Labour Party has a distinguished record in the provision of housing. Housing is a basic need and many of our citizens will not be able to provide for their own housing. This Party has therefore been the pioneer in constructing low income housing for rental.

The National Housing Corporation has a long waiting list for such housing. Those who need this kind of assistance have been abandoned over the last eight years by a **DLP Government whose record in this regard is certainly the worst of any Government since the 1940s**.

A BLP Government will resume the building of terrace units for rent to those who cannot provide for their own housing.

It is not our policy, however, that Government should become a landlord forever and the units will be sold to their tenants at their request. This is in keeping with our well established policy to sell both terrace units and separate houses to their tenants, with rent being credited back against the purchase price.

Helping those who will help themselves

The main thrust of our housing policy will however be the provision of incentives and facilities to encourage those who will help themselves. In this regard the DLP Administration's abolition of income tax concessions which encouraged home ownership was most destructive.

It reversed the aspirations of every young person who had been encouraged by the policy of the BLP to save and invest in a home at the price and on the terms that he/she could afford.

It also destroyed the savings and investment of those whose incomes were taken away by the Dems and who, unable to make mortgage payments, lost their homes in a forced sale.

A BLP Government will restore the income tax concessions on mortgage interest, home maintenance and insurance and will keep the land tax down by returning to the practice of reducing the rate whenever the value of properties is assessed, as is the case every three years. This is to ensure that once again young people in this country will be able to become home owners. They will also benefit from the lower prices which are anticipated to flow from our tax reduction policies.

In 1980 the Barbados Labour Party enacted the **Tenantries (Freehold Purchase) Act** to give security of tenure to the tenants of plantation tenantries by allowing them to purchase their house spot at 10 cents a square foot. The Anglican Church agreed to have the provisions of the Act extended to the tenants of its Glebe.

To facilitate transfer of the lands and to improve the quality of the lives of these tenants, the Government undertook the installation of roads, water and light and to have the lands surveyed.

After eight years the Dems, the situation has not improved. Many tenants have neither received the benefit of these services nor the security of title to their house spot.

A BLP Administration will immediately resume the programme of surveys, installations and land sales to the tenants to ensure that in the shortest possible time they become owners of the land on which they have lived for years.

A BLP Administration will also immediately resume an active **sites and services** programme through which house spots are made available to those persons who wish to build their own houses and starter homes which facilitate those who need to take a more incremental approach.

Among measures we will:

- keep down the mortgage interest rate
- promote of the thirty year mortgage
- establish a Secondary Mortgage Market to facilitate trading in mortgages
- introduce a Building Societies Act

- use housing bonds and other instruments to increase the availability of mortgage funds
- institute a **Housing Mortgage Insurance Scheme** to be administered by the Central Bank of Barbados as a protection against foreclosure by the mortgagee in circumstances where the mortgagor's inability to pay results from loss of employment
- establish a Building Code
- stimulate interest in home ownership, particularly for young persons, by tax concessions in respect of savings deposited specifically for this purpose
- encourage, by way of incentives, the development of indigenous building materials
- create a special fund to assist with the installation of water-borne toilet systems in every home

In order to minimise the traumatic consequences of fire...

We will:

- institute a form of compulsory home insurance in which Government takes responsibility for the aged and infirm
- establish hostel-type accommodation for the immediate relief of victims of fire and other disasters
- expand CERO's role to co-ordinate disaster cases

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The impact of DLP policies has been particularly severe on urban and suburban areas, particularly in the parish of St. Michael. Many tenancies were established before the days of Town and Country Development Planning legislation and are markedly deficient in the provision of roads and drainage.

Housing is inadequate with buildings being very small and often in a poor state of repair. Buildings are located very close to one another and there are few facilities for recreation.

Poverty has always been a problem in these areas. The Dems have made the situation worse by their destruction of jobs. This has impacted most severely on women and the youth.

The Charter for Urban and Suburban Areas will focus on the provision of special opportunities targeted primarily at these two groups and on a number of urban renewal projects which will create employment now and in the future.

The new Barbados Labour Party Government will:

- develop flexible training programmes designed to equip every school leaver with a marketable skill, to inculcate a sense of self help and to improve the moral and social consciousness of the participants
- establish a programme for the "greening" of Bridgetown and for urban green areas in Jubilee Gardens, Cheapside, Fairchild Street and Church Village
- implement the Bridgetown Waterfront Development Project
- execute a programme of renewal of the physical environment of those city districts that have suffered the greatest degradation
- encourage the restoration of buildings of architectural interest as a means of both preserving the national heritage and providing jobs
- construct on the sites of those public markets which the BLP had already earmarked for demolition large multi-purpose markets for arts and crafts as well as for food and general merchandise
- create other market sites across St. Michael and Christ Church, and at specially selected points off major highways, including the Tom Adams Highway
- renovate and promote Pelican Village as a craft market
- upgrade facilities at Temple Yard
- renovate the old Customs House on the wharf and any other suitable and available Government owned buildings in commercial for use by small entrepreneurs
- use lands at the Belle and Waterford to create small farms for landless farmers who will be provided with irrigation and fencing and who will practise organic farming
- construct roads and drainage in the tenancies
- require landlords to obtain a **certificate of habitation** for the premises they wish to rent
- enforce the Town Planning Regulations for tenancies, including the clear definition of boundaries and of space being rented and ensure that houses are properly sited

- improve access to the polyclinics and to social services generally
- increase assistance to non-governmental organisations which provide help for vagrants
- provide for greater community policing in urban and suburban areas
- encourage the sale of tenancies to tenants

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The rural communities of Barbados have been the bedrock of our stability and progress as a nation. **But many districts in rural Barbados have not kept pace with modern development due in major part to the dislocations and loss of employment resulting from the indiscriminate fragmentation of prime agricultural lands.**

These rural communities stretch from St. Philip in the east across the agricultural heart land of St. George and St. John into the Scotland District and through St. James and St. Peter into St. Lucy in the north.

The decline of traditional communities poses considerable difficulty in maintaining law and order and sustaining the stability and prosperity of rural society. We will rebuild strong, vibrant rural communities in which our people will find it desirable to reside, work and play.

We will:

- create a Rural Enterprises Fund to assist in the financing of new projects aimed at generating new business and jobs in rural Barbados
- rehabilitate the Scotland District and convert it into an economically and socially vibrant region of Barbados. Thus, we will reclaim and stabilize the one-seventh of Barbados at present threatened by erosion and simultaneously modernise the roads, water, light and housing in rural Barbados
- ensure that every household is provided with running water, water-borne toilets and electricity
- provide long leases, price support and other development incentives for a selected range of agricultural products so as to bring idle lands in rural Barbados back into production
- develop sites and services programmes for existing rural communities
- link rural villages by adequate street lighting and improve cross-country transportation
- provide multipurpose sporting and cultural complexes in major rural communities to provide outlets for the talents of the youth in these communities
- construct new tenancy roads and maintain existing ones
- pursue a land use policy that will protect arable lands against the depredations of greedy speculators
- establish a Ministry of Rural Development to implement the rural modernisation programme and generally to advise government on all matters concerning improvement in the quality of life of the people in these communities.

Our policies will ensure that there is always one Barbados

ENERGY

- Making energy cheaper
- Establishing Import Parity with Mobil
- Regulation of Essential Services
- Developing Renewable Energy Sources
- Expanding Domestic Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production

The primary objective of an effective Energy Policy for Barbados is to ensure reliable energy supplies of the desired quality at the best possible prices. Such a policy must also ensure that we do not waste energy as a nation by addressing the issues of energy conservation, development of our local oil and gas fields, and development of Alternative Sources of Energy.

Barbados will benefit from this policy by:

- foreign exchange savings
- lower energy costs for the Productive Sectors
- the improvement in Barbados's position as a competitor for regional and extra-regional markets
- substitution of cheaper locally produced energy for expensive imported energy, in particu-

lar natural gas for bottled gas

- job creation

To achieve these objectives:

- we will reduce Consumption tax on energy
- we will open the energy market to allow the importation of supplies at the same tax rates enjoyed by the Mobil Refinery (while it remains open) so that oil companies operating in Barbados may compete fairly to the benefit of the customer
- when we close the Mobil Refinery, the refinery surcharge will be returned to the customer by way of lower energy prices
- The Barbados Light & Power Company will be required to bid its fuel oil and diesel requirements competitively on a regular basis in order to obtain the best prices available
- any reduction in the cost of electricity should result in a reduction in the cost of water.

Energy Conservation

The new Barbados Labour Party Government will improve energy efficiency in the agriculture and transportation sectors, re-introduce energy audits in buildings with excessive energy consumption

patterns, intensify public awareness campaigns generally to improve efficiency in the use of energy and include energy conservation regulations in the proposed building code.

Other measures will include:

- utility rate structuring to encourage efficient energy use
- differential tax rates to encourage the use of energy efficient appliances

Alternative Energy

A Barbados Labour Party Government will foster the use of renewable sources of energy as a way of preserving our physical environment, while reducing dependence on imported forms of energy.

In addition to revitalising the use of bagasse from sugar factories in the generation of electricity, we will support such projects as the establishment of a cogeneration plant for the generation of electricity from garbage and the use of biotechnology in the agricultural sector as a source of energy and natural fertiliser.

Petroleum Development***A Barbados Labour Party Government will:***

- retain ownership of the Barbados National Oil

Company Limited and the National Petroleum Corporation

- expand local crude oil exploration and production for export
- increase natural gas production for use in the industrial sector, and as a substitute for imported bottled gas for domestic consumption

Pricing of Utilities

New legislation is required to bring the various monopolies under adequate supervision. The principal defects in the present regulatory arrangements are that all of the agencies are not included, and that while supervision is currently provided for, it is not buttressed by an appropriate investigative capacity.

A feature of the new arrangements will be the ability of the regulatory agency to initiate its own investigations of the trading practices of all these monopolies and to set their rates.

Rates for electricity, telecommunications including telephones, natural gas and water and the prices of petroleum products sold by the oil companies will therefore be the responsibility of the new agency.

QUALITY OF LIFE

**Closing Mt. Stinkeroo
Reliable water supply
Incineration plant
A Heritage Foundation**

Environment

- Re-establish the Ministry of the Environment
- Protect our drinking water supply
- Stop illegal dumping
- Establish a Heritage Foundation

We recognise that economic development must take place in harmony with the physical and social environment and must take into account both present and future needs.

We are entitled to breathe clean air, be assured of the regular supply of pure drinking water and enjoy a physical environment that is not stripped of its greenery. Our visitors deserve no less.

A Barbados Labour Party Government will:

- enact comprehensive legislation for the Protection of the Environment
- re-establish the Ministry of the Environment to formulate and implement the Government's environmental policies.

It will regulate the disposal of industrial waste effluents and will protect the marine environment

- implement a comprehensive water management policy to ensure effective use and distribution of our scarce resources
- ban the importation of chemicals whose use is not allowed in the country of their manufacture
- require an Environmental Impact Assessment for all major projects

Solid Waste Management

- close the dump at Mount Stinkeroo and compensate the residents of Arch Hall and Bennetts
- build an incineration plant
- promote cogeneration, recycling and other methods of disposal
- give incentives for environmentally friendly projects and products

Social/Cultural Conservation

A Barbados Labour Party Government will establish a Heritage Foundation to plan, fund and implement a co-ordinated Heritage Programme for Barbados. The heads of all accredited Heritage related organisations e.g. The Caribbean Conservation Association, The Barbados National Trust, The Barbados Environmental Association, will be invited to serve along with other distinguished persons and representatives of the Ministers respon-

sible for tourism, culture and the environment and the Chief Town Planner.

Its objectives will include:

- raising money and funding projects
- providing a single marketing effort similar to that of the Tourism Development Corporation
- advising Government on the development and management of Heritage assets e.g. Harrison Cave
- facilitating the recording of our social and cultural history
- fostering the preservation of indigenous art forms
- encouraging the development of arts and crafts and other cultural industries
- distributing government subventions
- advising government on legislation, tax incentives and other related matters
- implementation of a large-scale reforestation programme and establishment of green spaces in selected areas to enhance the physical environment
- establishment of nature trails in the Turner Hall Woods and the Joes River Forest and a resort town from **Bathsheba through the St. Andrew coast** in harmony with the development of eco-tourism projects in the Farley Hill/Scotland District National Park. Special incentives including a fifteen-year tax holiday will be provided
- promotion of Environmental Education
- upgrading of the Coastal Conservation Project
- execution of the South and West Coast Sewage Projects
- clean up of natural drainage courses, e.g. gullies, cleaning of existing culverts and wells and the sinking of new wells
- permission for funeral directors to establish a crematorium

The Environmental programme will be broad based and will encourage Barbadians in their legitimate desire to enjoy the amenity of the homes in which they live as well as the peace and tranquility of wholesome surroundings.

Measures will be implemented to reduce **noise pollution** in the interest of homeowners, visitors to our shores and indeed the hospitality industry generally.

These measures will include:

Water: A Scarce Resource

Water is our most important natural resource. On this depends the health of the country, the survival of the individual, and the development of every manner of economic activity.



YOUR CHOICE FOR CHANGE

We will guarantee to all a ready supply of drinking water of the highest quality.

A Barbados Labour Party Government will:

- augment our limited ground water resources by capturing surface run-off, using surface waters in the Scotland District and harnessing natural springs
- sink more wells and build more reservoirs

- improve the Water Authority's capacity to detect leaks and replace defective mains
- provide incentives for the installation of storage tanks
- halt the diversion of Water Authority monies to other purposes and use it for development and maintenance

The programme of installing water borne toilet systems in every home will be completed.

LAW, ORDER AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Strengthening the Court

Improving systems of punishment

A larger, better equipped Police Force

In seeking to change Barbados fundamentally for the future and create a service-oriented economy, it is absolutely essential that law and order be at the centre of our developmental strategies.

Barbados today is not a safe place to live in. Violent crime threatens us in our homes, on the streets and on our beaches. Things have got so bad that we have been forced to arm the police.

None of these distorting features will disappear unless Government creates an economic environment in which our youth can be fully employed, addresses the causes of crime, strengthens the judicial system and the Police Force, establishes new sentencing options and itself carries out the law.

Enforcing the Law

We will carry out the death penalty in accordance with the law.

We will re-introduce whipping as a legal punishment.

A BLP Government will establish a *National Task Force on Crime*. This will be a permanent body comprised of a number of persons from different agencies combining a variety of disciplines.

Royal Barbados Police Force

We are committed to a highly trained, mobile, well staffed and generally contented Police Force.

To this end we will:

- increase the numbers of both men and women in the Force
- integrate special constables and island constables into the regular Police Force

- strengthen the management of the Force
- intensify both local and overseas training
- improve the physical amenities and the equipment and provide more vehicles
- speed up the process of **computerisation** and improved communication systems
- provide a **forensic laboratory**
- improve street lighting and demolish derelict buildings as crime prevention measure
- enact a new Code of Discipline for members of the Force
- establish an **independent Police Complaints Authority** to investigate and adjudicate complaints from members of the public against members of the Force.
- between the ages of 17 and 24, provided they have not been convicted of murder, rape, armed robbery or other heinous crimes;
- an Order for Discipline and Training of intermediate duration;
- reorganisation of the system of Community Service Orders and the establishment of Attendance Centres to facilitate non-custodial sentences for non-violent crime, thus providing a sentencing culture in which offenders will be punished by doing work in and for the community
- a Rehabilitation of Offenders Act to provide for "spent" convictions;

The Penal System

The existing penal system is too narrow in its scope and results in too many of our young persons being imprisoned. We will provide a larger number of sentencing options and more diverse punishments. We will focus on punishment within the community.

Among the measures we propose are:

- a new Department of Correctional Services which will incorporate the work of the Probation Department.
- reorganisation of Dodds and Summervale into Junior Residential Institutions and provision of Remand Homes;
- a Young Offenders' Institution for persons be-

Glendairy Prison

Glendairy needs more prison officers and improved conditions.

We will therefore:

- establish more prison officers' post
- provide better training for staff
- improve the physical amenity
- expand the facilities for education and training of prisoners
- subject to the relevant ILO Conventions employ prisoners on agricultural and environmental projects;
- develop through the Department of Correctional Services programmes for After Care and Parole.

The Law Courts

Justice delayed is justice denied. The Court System must function more cheaply, more efficiently and more speedily. Judicial Officers must be better paid and provided with Courts and offices that are comfortable and equipped with modern technology. We will take full account of the needs of the public attending Court.

We will:

- review the conditions of appointment of Judges and Magistrates to ensure impartiality in appointment and the greater independence of the Judiciary;
- provide programmes of continuing education for the Judiciary, lawyers and others engaged in the administration of justice;
- establish continuous Assizes;
- mechanise the procedure for recording evidence in the High Court and providing support and research staff for the Judiciary to achieve the better use of judicial time;
- refurbish, renovate and extend the facilities of the Registration Office;
- appoint senior lawyers to eliminate the backlog of Coroners' inquests;
- provide another tier of Judicial Officers by judicious use of senior lawyers;
- review the Legal Profession Act to ensure that the public receives legal service of the highest quality and integrity.

Caribbean Court of Appeal

The Barbados Labour Party remains committed to the establishment of a Caribbean Court of Appeal as a final Court of Appeal for Caribbean jurisdictions. This is, however, a matter for negotiation among Caribbean countries.

The establishment of the Court ought to reduce the cost of litigation and also reduce the time it takes for these matters to be heard. It ought also to assist in the development of a Caribbean Jurisprudence.

Illegal Narcotic Drugs

The drug problem in Barbados has reached very serious proportions. There is a growing number of addicts, inadequate facilities for treatment, and an uninterrupted inflow of drugs.

A BLP Government will establish a multidisciplinary *Advisory Committee on Narcotic Drugs*. It will be a permanent body and will assist in the formulation of national programmes aimed ultimately at the eradication of drug use.

Critical aspects of our strategy against drug use will be:

- establishment of properly managed, well staffed and coordinated facilities for rehabilitation
- intensification of educational programmes
- continuous review of the effectiveness of legislation
- improvement of detection capabilities
- cooperation with friendly countries and the sharing of intelligence.

INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

A Public Transport Authority

A better deal for mini-bus and route taxi operators

Road work.

An impartial approach to awarding contracts

Public Transport

Neither adult commuters nor school children can now depend on the public transport system for reliable, safe, and comfortable accommodation, and these ought to be the hallmarks of a public transport system.

We recognise the necessity for an efficient system of public transport and its importance to social and economic development.

We will:

- establish an independent Transport Authority to regulate the entire ground transport system currently operated by a mix of state owned buses and privately owned mini-buses and route taxis
- review the operations of the Transport Board to ensure the most effective use of its fleet
- integrate the mini-buses and route taxis fully into the system on terms no less favourable than the buses
- continue the present single-fare structure

- provide terminals for private operators close to the main shopping areas to ease the problem of public transport vehicles stopping all over Bridgetown and Speightstown
- rationalise the system without forcing private operators to reduce the numbers in their fleets
- ensure that there is a proper redistribution of vehicles on the various routes in order to eliminate the fierce competition which results in recklessness
- monitor the conduct of public transport drivers with a view to wiping out unsafe driving habits
- enforce a strict dress code for drivers of public transport vehicles
- facilitate the importation of chassis for the construction of buses therefore providing for Barbadian manufacturers a certain volume of work
- Construct a new Transport Board Headquarters at Kendall Hill.

Roads and Drainage

We will ensure that our road network system is adequately rehabilitated and consistently maintained.

We will improve traffic and road safety measures for the protection and safety of school children, elderly persons and other users of the road.

We will give priority to the improvement of road corridors, sidewalks and road construction and maintenance in residential tenancies.

We will carry out an islandwide programme to

improve drainage, especially in flood prone areas.

We will sink suck wells, clear water courses, and maintain culverts.

We will:

- extend Highway F into St. John and St. Philip, linking the East Coast Road to the Tom Adams Highway in order to facilitate movement of goods and people for both social and economic purposes
- reinstate the Scotland Area Project to improve the existing road network within this area
- complete construction of all tenantry roads
- ensure that the roads of this country are maintained
- include drainage in the programme for road construction in order to minimise flooding and safeguard the lives, health and property of persons who live in flood-prone areas
- award road building contracts on the terms most advantageous to the country.

Road Safety

The improvement of road safety depends on the state of vehicles and roads as much as the alertness and competence of drivers and the care that pedestrians take. We will implement effective public education programmes directed at all users of the road.

We will make training in defensive driving mandatory for all drivers. For the drivers of public service and heavy duty vehicles, we will introduce special operator training programmes and make periodic testing and retraining a term of the renewal of licences.

The Grantley Adams International Airport and the Bridgetown Harbour

Modern efficient ports, both sea and air, are essential to both trade and services. Barbados' position in a prime geographical location opens up possibilities for this country through its ports to service both air and sea traffic transiting the Caribbean from North to South and from East to West.

We will market our facilities in order to attract transiting carriers for stop-over services such as maintenance and repairs, and the provision of fuels and supplies as a prime earner of foreign exchange and provider of jobs.

We will:

- improve amenities, particularly at the airport, in order to offer a better quality service to visitors and to ensure efficient service for the volume of traffic resulting from the promotion of Barbados as a hub for both passenger and cargo carriers
- re-establish the seaport as a competitive, efficient trans-shipment port in the Caribbean
- market the seaport as a domicile for ocean going lines
- develop Barbados as a user friendly intransit airport
- provide training and retraining to improve the efficiency and vigilance of Customs and Immigration staff
- bring to an end the practice of requiring Barbadians returning from abroad to comply with unnecessary immigration formalities, and permit their re-entry on proof of citizenship.
- ensure maximum levels of security at both sea and airport.

FOREIGN POLICY

Responding to a new order Promoting democracy in Haiti Regional Security System

During the past four years far reaching changes have taken place in world affairs. Communism has collapsed and the Soviet Union has broken up. New and complex conflict situations have arisen to threaten peace and security.

There has been the rapid development of trading blocs, common markets, free trade areas and the conclusion after many years of a new GATT Agreement which provides for the setting up of a World Trade Organisation.

The Foreign Policy of Barbados must respond to the new order.

We will reorganise the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enable it to co-ordinate the work of our development agencies abroad and our Missions and Consular Agencies to mobilise investment, promote our trading interests and market Barbados as a centre of excellence for financial, business and information services.

The Foreign Service will be staffed with the focus on a range of disciplines not usually emphasised in the recruitment of Barbadian diplomatic staff. It must be a flexible instrument designed to give leadership in the drive to win business and investment for Barbados.

CARICOM

We will promote the widening and deepening of CARICOM and will seek to make it work more efficiently and effectively. We will also promote

the interests of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

In concert with other CARICOM states we will seek to be associated with the Enterprise of the Americas Initiative, the North American Free Trade Area and such other initiatives as may be genuine, equitable and mutually beneficial, encompassing the countries of the Western Hemisphere.

We will foster normalisation of relations between the United States and Cuba and will support the United Nations efforts to remove the military from Haiti and restore the democratically elected President.

We will encourage the provision of massive programmes of assistance and the development of the infrastructure for democracy if Haiti is ever to take its place among the free and democratic nations of this world on a permanent basis.

We will strongly support and play an active part in the Commonwealth, the United Nations and the Organisation of American States. Special regard will be paid to the independent states of Africa, as we believe that our historic link with that great continent has remained largely undeveloped.

Together with the developing states, particularly the small island states, we will fight for greater and fairer trade to enable our economies to grow and diversify. We will set the pace in fighting for sustainable development for all small island states, in particular for international action to safeguard environmental needs.

Defence and Security

Caribbean states are small and are for that reason faced with special problems in seeking to make adequate arrangements for their defence and security. These arrangements will not work except within the framework of regionalism.



YOUR CHOICE FOR CHANGE

The Barbados Labour Party fully supports the Regional Security System but considers that it must be buttressed by a treaty. We will work towards negotiation of that treaty. We will work closely with other regional states towards making the Caribbean a zone of peace.

At home we will continue to support the Barbados Defence Force, restore its sagging morale, ensure that it is properly equipped to secure our sea resources, particularly in fisheries control, the prevention of smuggling, detection of drug trafficking and the prevention of acts of terrorism.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Broadcasting Parliamentary Debates

Treating candidates as equals

Improving Government's Information Policies

Use of Parliamentary Committee

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The principal issues which need to be addressed are accountability, decentralisation, efficiency and the creation of opportunity for citizens to participate more effectively in our system of government.

It is now 25 years since Local Government was abolished in Barbados. The DLP Government set up the Jackson Commission on Local Government in 1964. Jackson advised **against** abolition. Government abolished it anyway.

The system of statutory corporations performing the tasks formerly done by Local Government Authorities has been a failure. It is inefficient and it denies the Barbadian public opportunity to participate in its own governance. It has led to excessive centralisation and the alienation of the people from their own government.

A BLP Government will be committed to identifying those areas of government which should be decentralised and which may be more effectively managed by locally elected bodies.

This will be an important aspect of the administrative reform to ensure wider people's participation in their governmental affairs and the better management of the people's business.

Parliament itself must undergo reform. Public interest in the debates of the House of Assembly has fallen off in recent years. This underlines the widening gulf between the governors and those whom they govern.

The situation has been made worse by the steadfast refusal of a stubborn and insensitive DLP Government to agree to the broadcast of important debates, including the debate of the successful No Confidence Motion against the Prime Minister.

We will initiate a number of measures aimed at reversing this process by once again encouraging Barbadians to identify with Parliament as their very own.

These will include

- the use of **Green Papers and White Papers** to ventilate important measures, thereby facilitating the widest possible discussion before legislation is introduced

- improved research facilities for members of both Chambers of the Legislature
- the establishment of **joint committees** of both Houses to ensure that the Executive becomes accountable to the people of Barbados through Parliament
- involving one of the joint committees in **appointments to important offices** of State
- devising ways in which the role of backbenchers may be made more dynamic and greater significance may be given to **private members business**
- collection, collation and publication of Parliamentary and Constitutional **Practices and Conventions** as well as **rulings** of Speakers on questions of **Parliamentary Privilege**
- improvements in the Legislative process and procedures and updating the laws and rules on Parliamentary Privilege
- **live broadcast of the debates** of both Houses of Parliament on both television and radio
- legislation of **equal time for broadcasts by candidates** seeking election to the House of Assembly. The current **Election Broadcast Rules** favour the party which enjoyed the parliamentary majority immediately prior to the dissolution of Parliament.
- enactment of **Integrity Legislation** governing the conduct of all members of the House of Assembly, the Senate and public officials. The aim is to ensure public accountability and to eradicate corruption in public life.
- encouraging the electronic media to allow political broadcasting outside of an election period.

The Public Service

Our programme for the Public Service will include:

- a new Financial Administration and Audit Act
- establishment of a **broadly based commission** with wide terms of reference to review the status, role and function of the Public Service, its relationship to the elected representatives and its accountability
- appointment of a **permanent Chairman** of the Public Service Commission
- redesign of **training** programmes in conjunction with the University of the West Indies and other relevant institutions and the inclusion in such programmes of exposure to the private sector through periodic consultancies
- increased **computerisation**
- improvement in the arrangements of **accountability** for the expenditure of public funds
- a new regime for **postmen and postwomen** to include the **duty free** purchase of motorcycles, an improved career structure, improved conditions of service and better physical amenities especially at the District Post Offices
- a new **Public Service Act** to define the relationship between employer and employee and **provide protection for employees' emoluments**
- review of the role, function and powers of the Auditor General with a view to strengthening the constitutional protection of his independence and to ensure that his office at all times enjoys adequate staffing.

Information Technology

We will develop and articulate an Information Technology strategy using economical state of the art computing and communication systems. We will invest in the development of human resources, and the installation of state of the art systems to achieve greater efficiency in the delivery of services to the public.

The public sector will develop its Information Technology Systems to make them more accessible to the public. For example, public statistical information, such as Central Bank statistics and data on imports and exports will be made available to users on an electronic bulletin board. Reporting to government departments will be accepted by the same method.

All existing systems of Government's data processing will be reviewed with a view to establishing decentralized systems that can easily communicate with one another. This will promote the rapid transmission of data between ministries and speed up the flow of information.

Incentives will be given to stimulate training programmes and entrepreneurial activity in the informatics industry. Research and development in new technology fields will be the beneficiary of additional **tax incentives**.

There will be a reduction in the rate of stamp duty on computers, peripheral equipment and software, and of all duties on communication devices to encourage investment in new technological systems in the business and agricultural communities.

At the same time realistic depreciation rates will be established to reflect the speed of technological change and the resultant acceleration of obsolescence in the information technology and communications industry.

It will be our objective to accelerate the installation of advanced communication systems to allow the development of new employment in every parish of the island. Existing monopolies will be reviewed in the light of new technological innova-

tions and provision will be made for increased competition.

We will update **intellectual property** legislation and protect the copyright of software. We will enact **Privacy of Information** legislation to safeguard the privacy of the citizens of Barbados.

Broadcasting

Barbadians are entitled to genuine choice and must not be left to the monopolistic mercies of CBC TV and the heavy hand of Government control over what they might see or hear.

The free flow of information and the provision of opportunity for the expression of varying points of view are inalienable features of a functioning democracy.

The impact of the Information Age has not only placed our citizens at the centre of world events, but has created within the society a hunger for more open government and greater accountability.

Barbadians watch events unfold in the Senate and the House of Representatives of the USA and even in the Russian Parliament, but they cannot watch debates in their own House of Assembly.

A new BLP Government will:

- issue other licences for the operation of both television and radio stations
- divest its interest in the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation primarily to the staff, co-ops, and the small individual investor in order to free it of partisan political control, ensure that it is run as a business and widen the base of economic ownership
- equip Parliament with its own television and radio facilities for the broadcast of debates at modest cost and without any reduction in the listening and viewing choice Barbadians now enjoy.

The Government Information Service and the Media

We will restructure the Government Information Service to ensure that it resumes its function as a professional public information agency and an independent source of untainted, timely and reliable public information.

We will financially assist programmes for the training of journalists in order to promote in our soci-

ety a journalistic community whose members are well informed and highly trained. We support the efforts of those who promote or engage in regional broadcasting and thereby foster a stronger sense of Caribbean community. We salute the performance of the **Caribbean Broadcasting Union** in this regard.

We will ensure the early conclusion of negotiations for a headquarters agreement for the Caribbean Broadcasting Union to facilitate its continued operation in Barbados.

THE CONSTITUTION AND LAW REFORM

The need for Reform

Eliminating discrimination

Compensating the victims of violent crime

Ending imprisonment for debt

The case for reform of the Constitution of Barbados has been put beyond doubt by the behaviour of the outgoing DLP administration which has shown little respect for conventions, consultation, and the law regarding the collective responsibility of the Cabinet. Section 26, which saves all law which was in existence before November 30, 1966, and continued to be in existence on that day, undermines the primacy which the Constitution itself seeks to give to fundamental rights.

The Constitution of Barbados allows men to pass on Barbadian citizenship to their children born **in wedlock** outside of Barbados. But it denies this right to women.

The only way a Barbadian woman can pass on citizenship to her child is if the child is born **outside of wedlock**. The Barbadian male cannot pass citizenship to his child born out of wedlock.

At one and the same time it discriminates against

the children of un-married Barbadian men and the children of married Barbadian women. In this way it perpetuates an odious distinction which an earlier Barbados Labour Party Government abolished in the ordinary law.

Another instance of discrimination in the Constitution exists in regard to the treatment of the non-Barbadian spouses of Barbadian citizens. The spouse of the male is given a right to citizenship. Not so the spouse of the female.

The protection of our Constitutional rights, including the right to equal treatment under the law, is the preserve of our Courts.

The Constitution protects the independence of the judges, but not of the magistrates, who decide the vast majority of matters that come before the Courts.

Where, as in the case of some important appointments, including the appointment of Judges, the Constitution requires that the Prime Minister consult with the Leader of the Opposition, it has become the practice for there to be a mere notification of an intention to appoint a particular individual. This may satisfy the minimum requirement of the law, but it certainly offends against the substance of the Constitution. Procedures must be created to ensure the appointment of a Bench rep-

resenting the widest possible range of legal abilities and enjoying the highest level of public respect and approval.

The Senate is a nominated Chamber comprising mainly representatives of the governing party and nominees of the Governor General. Out of 21 seats only two go to representatives of the official Opposition. There is urgent need for this Chamber to be made more representative and more useful.

We will institute specific constitutional devices to empower the people to more effectively participate in the exercise of their political power.

The Referendum is one such device. This will be used whenever the Government proposes changes in the system of Government which are so fundamental that the canvass of wider public opinion is deemed necessary. An example would be any proposed change to a republican form of Government.

We will introduce instruction in the principles of the Constitution into our Secondary Schools. Since Constitutional decisions are so fundamental to the system of Government, decisions about change will be made in the context of the widest possible consultation between Government and the people.

To this end we will appoint a broad based commission to review the Constitution. Such a commission will be mandated to consult with the public to the fullest and to make recommendations for changes to the Constitution the better to safeguard multiparty parliamentary democracy and protect fundamental rights.

Law Reform

We will appoint a permanent broad-based Law Reform Committee which will keep our laws permanently under review and provide advice to Government on a continuing basis. But there are matters which will require our immediate attention

We will enact:

- a new Public Service Act and new General Orders

- a Magistrates' Jurisdiction and Procedure Act and new Magistrates' Court Rules
- a Homicide Act
- compensation for the victims of violent crime
- a Rehabilitation of Offenders Act
- a new Children and Young Persons Act
- a comprehensive Employment Protection Act
- a Consumer Protection Act
- a Protection of the Environment Act
- a Defamation Act
- a Limitation of Actions Act
- a new Insolvency Act

We will abolish:

- imprisonment for debt
- imprisonment for breach of a maintenance order
- transfer tax and stamp duty on property transferred to spouses pursuant to a divorce or court order

We will do everything we can to make participatory democracy a reality in our country. We will consult with the judges, the magistrates and the Bar Association on matters affecting the Courts, the penal system and reform of the law - but that is not all.

We will circulate drafts of major legislation to all political parties, to interest groups and interested members of the public to facilitate discussion and comment prior to their introduction into Parliament.

We goin' with OWEN

