

**DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY  
MANIFESTO**

**DESIGN  
FOR  
LIVING  
FOR A FREE  
PEOPLE**

**BARBADOS GENERAL ELECTION  
1976**



1000  
**the right honorable  
errol walton barrow**

## philosophy

The Democratic Labour Party is celebrating twenty-one years of existence this year; and from its very foundation in May, 1955, the Party has been committed to the fundamental objective of development for Barbados and its approximately 250,000 inhabitants. How successful the Party has been in working towards that objective can be seen in the long list of achievements which this Party has registered for the People of Barbados. That list of achievements is included as Appendix "A" to this manifesto, and is a massive rebuttal to those jealous and ill-founded statements of Barbados Labour Party spokesmen and others that "the D.L.P. has done nothing for the people of Barbados!"

Over the past fifteen years, our Party and Government was forced to concentrate on clearing away the backlog of neglect and abandon which was inflicted on our country by the Barbados Labour Party during its long tenure of office in this country. If the Barbados Labour Party had done the things which were most definitely required in this country, then Barbados would have been farther along the road of advancement. The Democratic Labour Party came to the rescue of the country.

The people of Barbados have had experience of both the B.L.P. and the D.L.P. and therefore know that the performance of the Democratic Labour Party in office far outstrips that of the B.L.P. On that basis of performance is trust and confidence engendered, paving the way for chapter four in the book of progress for this country under the D.L.P.

Over the past fifteen years, too, the D.L.P. has had to concentrate on building up the infrastructure of this country and providing a base for the survival of a small country in a competitive world. First of all we had to establish the Independence of our Country; for without that independence, the essential interests of this country would have continued to be subordinated to those of Britain. And may we remind you that the B.L.P. fought a most bitter campaign against the independence of our native land. We had to remodel the system of education, making it free for the children of this country in public schools. We had to establish a National Insurance and Social Security Scheme. We had to guarantee full employment for agricultural workers amongst others.

Over the next five years there will be a shift in emphasis in government policies away from "infrastructural" development and into the direction of making "development" an actual reality where it matters

most: in the houses where the masses of people actually live; in the roads which lead to these houses; in the utilities of water, electricity, gas and telephones servicing these houses; in the transport services available to really meet the needs of the people where they live and at the workplace; in the recreational facilities, available to the people within easy access of their homes; in the provision of schools, day nurseries, and health facilities to meet the basic needs of the people in their community. Above all, the new strategy will reveal itself in a major thrust to provide employment for all those in this country of working age who are able and willing to work.

For in Barbados we will deviate from the classical model of considering "development" only in terms of stages of economic growth or in terms of per capita income, gross national product and such "lifeless" concepts. Our strategy will be to make development mean a significant improvement in the quality of life where people actually live.

Underlying our every action will be our fundamental commitment to the principle of equality of opportunity for every citizen in our land, to the principle of guaranteeing the fundamental rights and freedoms of our people; to the principle of freedom and justice and democracy; to the principle of free parliamentary institutions, supported by free elections.

Nor will we be blind to the cultural development of our country. Culture must mirror our past, our present situation and our future strivings. Culture is an integral part of our longings and our strivings. It is not something apart from development; it is development. The Democratic Labour Party will be drawing upon our cultural heritage in our search for the further evolution of Barbadian society.

Central to the implementation of this philosophy over the next five years will be the major role that will be allocated to the housing and construction sector. A programme of new house construction, replacement of our worn structures, and renovation and modernization of existing buildings will be the key energizer in meeting the basic needs of our people. We are satisfied that the housing and construction sector can be the front runner in bringing about development as we conceive it. The importance of the multiplier effect of this sector on the rest of the economy cannot be over-emphasized, job opportunities being created in other sectors of the economy in addition to those directly concerned in the physical construction of houses, offices or factories. For these and other reasons, therefore we will be placing especial emphasis on the housing and construction sector as the central plank in our philosophy of national development, since the quality of life is directly affected.

**housing**



*Houses Built By Government For Sale*

## housing

*"The improvement of the quality of life of human beings is the first and most important objective of every human settlement policy" —*

Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976

The continuing aim of the Democratic Labour Party is to assist every Barbadian to realize his human right to a decent home in a congenial living environment. In pursuit of this, the Party has built a number of houses for sale or for rent in properly planned and well laid out developments, and has provided facilities by way of long-term loans for the purpose of the repair or improvement of existing houses or the acquisition of new ones. It has also made available facilities for the repair or replacement of the homes of old aged pensioners or of destitute persons at no cost to them.

The record is as follows:

3550 housing units have been built; over 5,000 persons have been granted loans totalling more than \$8,000,000.00 to build, buy and improve their own habitations. Over 700 houses of old aged pensioners have been repaired or replaced.

The D.L.P. is proud of that record.

During the past five years a deliberate emphasis has been placed on home ownership so that an increasingly large number of young persons have been motivated to own their own homes.

During the next 5 years the very highest priority will be given to increasing the number of houses and improving existing stock.

In the planning of development areas, provision is already being made for such facilities as shops, Day Nurseries, schools as well as for open spaces for sport or for leisure. In such areas adequate provision is planned for market gardening by individual owners and tenants.

The Government is concluding negotiations to take control of the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company and, subject to the availability of

adequate funds, will ensure that mortgages are available to all persons who qualify therefor whether or not they are purchasing houses developed by the Government or any of its agencies or developing on their own land.



*St. Michael's District Hospital — The New Look*

## health services

We endorse the World Health Organization's definition of Health as being "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." We affirm that "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health", so defined, is a fundamental right to which the people of Barbados are entitled, irrespective of their social or economic condition.

Since 1961 we have carried out major transformations in the Health Services. We have developed the Queen Elizabeth Hospital into the finest institution of its kind in the region.

The Infant Mortality Rate has been reduced from 84 per 1000 live births in 1961 to 29 per 1000 live births in 1975; Almshouses have been abolished and replaced by District Hospital Services; we have set up

public health engineering services to monitor and control pollution of our environment; we have established a Sanitation Service Authority supplied with the most modern equipment for the improvement of the refuse collection and disposal services; we have taken steps to increase the flow of trained health manpower through the establishment of certificate and diploma level courses in the Division of Health Sciences of the Barbados Community College, and through the provision of scholarships for study abroad; new health legislation on the statute books.

The Democratic Labour Party now plans to: —

1. classify the health care system into the **primary health care sector** with stress on prevention, education and treatment at the community level, and the **secondary health care sector** embracing the Queen Elizabeth Hospital; the specialized



*New Health Centre at Warrens, St. Michael.*

hospitals, the District Hospitals, and other specialized referral health facilities.

2. utilize the multi-purpose Community Health Clinic as the main instrument for making health care accessible to the people in the communities where they actually live in providing ante- and post-natal care, child health care, family planning, venereal disease control, care for diabetics and the aged, welfare and public health inspection services, psychiatric services, dental care, dispensing services, community nursing care, and general practitioner services. The Community Health Clinics, like the Casualty Department and other outpatients' clinics at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital now will be free of any charge.

Specifically we will —

\*maintain and improve the efficiency of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as the major curative institution at which our people are treated when acutely ill. The management services will be further streamlined; The services in the Casualty Department will be restricted to determined serious accidents and other conditions requiring immediate medical attention thereby reducing waiting time; a parallel development of a separate out-patients' clinic for the treatment of non-emergency illness will take place. Complete the new extension block at the St. Philip District Hospital and convert the St. Andrew Maternity Hospital into a District Hospital.

\*continue the modernization programme at the Mental Hospital through the addition of new facilities and the implementation of the new Mental Health Bill;

\*institute a fully-fledged School Health Service through the integration and up-grading of existing medical, dental, and ophthalmic services. The new service will stress (i) periodic physical examination of school pupils, (ii) the promotion of a healthy and sanitary school environment, and (iii) a progressive school health education programme ensuring that relevant health knowledge and experiences are imparted to the pupils.

\*establish a Child Guidance Centre to promote the balanced development of children and to deal with the problems of maladjustment.

\*intensify the health education programme as a very important

preventive health activity through an expansion of the work programme and staff resources of the Health Education unit.

\*institute a Community Nursing Service involving trained nurses and nursing assistants to provide comprehensive nursing care and health information to acutely and chronically ill patients including the elderly in the home setting. This service will embrace traditional public health nursing, aid in the recuperation of patients, assist the work of the general practitioner, and strengthen the hospital's outreach programme.

\*develop programmes aimed particularly at reducing the incidence of illness and fatality resulting from diabetes mellitus ("sugar"), hypertension ("high blood pressure"), heart disease, and motor vehicle accidents — all of which are listed among the ten principal causes of death in Barbados.

\*re-organize the dental health services by strengthening the administration of those services, by promoting dental health educational activities, by strengthening measures aimed at both preventing the onset of oral and dental diseases and treating such diseases when they do occur, by instituting suitable training programmes for licensed dental para-professionals, and by increasing the supply of dentists through the provision of more scholarships and the development of dental externship programmes in co-operation with interested universities.

\*review the terms and conditions of service of the District Medical Officers with the objective of making fuller use of their services in a comprehensive health care programme;

\*establish a National Advisory Health Council;

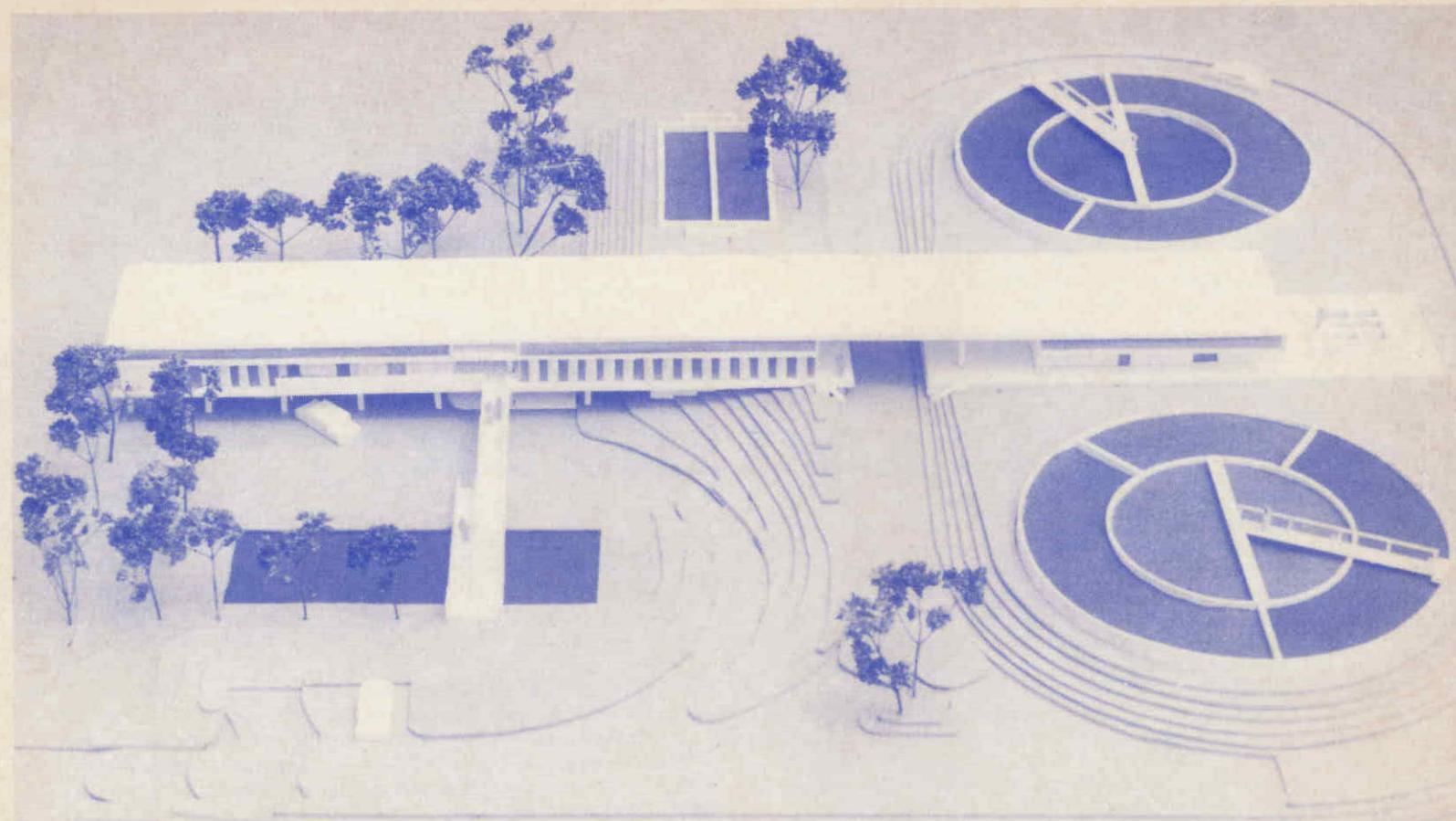
\*implement an occupational health programme for the protection of the workers' health at the work place.

With all the health care services already freely available along with the party's programme for extension and improvement, we are not satisfied that the citizens of this country need to be burdened with contributing towards the cost of a National Health Insurance Scheme.

The country is understaffed with medical practitioners. Over fifty per cent of the staff of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are non-nationals having been recruited from all over the world.

The administrative problems, the staffing difficulties and the cost of a health insurance scheme all will operate against an efficient and worthwhile system of health care service.

**trade and industry**



*Model of Sewage Plant*

## trade and industry

In spite of the uncertain and sometimes chaotic situation in the world economy, the population of Barbados has been able to maintain a relatively high standard of living. Because of the commitment of the Democratic Labour Party to raising the quality of life of all our citizens we have seen dramatic changes in our life style, even in difficult times.

We have continued to make significant gains in our quest for import substitution. During the past five years we have become self-sufficient or nearly so in such diverse products as:

eggs; poultry; pork; carrots; sweet potatoes; cabbage; poultry and animal feeds; milk; tomatoes; beets; beans; yams; onions; fish. We now produce our own furniture of descriptions, for the home, factory, office and school.

## regional co-operation – trade

The Party remains a staunch supporter of Regional Integration. A Government under the D.L.P. will continue to play a prominent role in the harmonization of fiscal incentives, the regionalization and rationalization of industry, the joint development of infrastructural industries, increased production of food on a regional basis; regional cooperation on consumer prices and standards and an expanded market for our own produce and manufactured goods through the Caribbean Community and our association with the European Economic Community in the securing of which arrangements for larger markets this government played a major role.

## industry

One of the obvious major successes of the Democratic Labour Party has been its industrialization policies. From a mere ten (10) industries in 1961 there are now 183 different industries, carrying wages from approximately \$1 million in 1961 to over \$33 million in 1975. Employment levels from 410 people in 1961 to over 13,000 in 1976 speak for themselves.

The Party proposes to continue and intensify these policies. In the next five years, the Party will:

1. Reorganize the Industrial Development Corporation to provide even greater expertise to stimulate the further development of Barbadian Industry.  
Specifically, an industrial engineering advisory service; and development of local projects for joint investment will be added features of the IDC's programme. Manufacture of new products will be seriously researched and explored.
2. Expand some of the nine existing ones and acquire new Industrial Parks which will continue to be located near our population centres.
3. Invest in non-traditional industries to enable even more Barbadians to participate in ownership of such industries. Plans are already underway for the establishment of a large-scale manufacturing company that will cater for exports to North American and European Markets. Total ownership of this company will pass to Barbadian investors as soon as the viability of the project is firmly established.
4. Intensify its efforts to establish other agro-based industries such as the Pine Hill Dairy, Barbados Packers and Canners, etc. We will invest directly in such projects — an expanded and improved animal Feeds Plant, a Flour Mill, a Food Manufacturing Company, among others.

## handicrafts

The Democratic Labour Party has fulfilled its commitment made in 1971 to reorganize the handicraft industry in Barbados. In the next five years we will continue its rapid development. Specifically we will:

- a) Establish at strategic locations throughout the country branches or depots of the Handicraft Centre;
- b) Restrict the importation of any souvenirs, trinkets or other similar items, thus continuing to provide linkages between the Tourist Industry and the Handicraft Industry.  
Preserve and expand the pottery industry, including the development of ceramics.

- c) Reserve certain areas of land for production of pandanus and other local raw materials.
- d) Provide scholarships and specialist training in Handicraft design etc. for those of our young people who have the talent, aptitude and inclination to benefit from them.
- e) Continue to provide central marketing facilities for all handicraft producers who require them.

It is our intention to become self-sufficient in the production of: baskets, ladies handbags, shopping bags, bread baskets, place-mats, imitation jewelry, belts, combs, jewelry boxes, key rings, chains, mats, post-cards, various household items, ash trays, coasters, letter boxes, table-lamps, book-ends, rugs, wall-hangings (woven and carved), souvenirs, pottery products, among others.

## exports

One of the clear necessities for our further development apart from increased productivity, is the earning of vital foreign exchange through increased export of our own products. In 1961 Barbados exports from manufacturers other than sugar stood at \$400,000. By 1975 our exports have grown to \$65.2 million.

We established an Export Promotions Division of the I.D.C. with its own Board. In the next five years, the Party will:

Expand its export promotion division;  
Continue efforts to acquire new and larger markets in Europe and North America;  
Consolidate the gains made for export assistance through the Agreement between the EEC and the ACP states which include Barbados.

## design centre

One of the important considerations in the industrialization of a country is its capacity to express its people's personality in the design of the houses or buildings they live and work in, the things they wear and those they use. As a people become more sophisticated its tastes will

require an advanced approach to development. To this end, the Party will:

Establish a Design Centre where our manufacturers, our semi-manufacturers, our architectural and other creations and our natural produce may be permanently displayed.

## standards

During the past five years the Barbados Standards Institution was established. Within a few months its Laboratories constructed with financial help from the United Nations Development Programme, will become fully functional. In the meantime, standards have been completed for 28 items including furniture, some garments and certain foods.

In the next five years the Party will:

Introduce legislation to make standards in certain foods, household items, building and other materials mandatory. This will mean that only goods of a reasonable quality would be permitted to be produced, manufactured or imported and offered for sale.

Introduce a new Weights and Measures Act, updating our present legislation and legalizing the Metric System.

## consumer protection

Apart from ensuring fair prices in the commercial life of its community, a government has a responsibility to ensure that fair practices prevail at all times. The concept of 'consumerism' and the efforts of governments to offer protection to consumers have a long and varied history. However, within recent years, consumers in many parts of the world have banded themselves together to fight against some of the more unscrupulous practices in the market place.

Within our own country, the pressure of advertising, the emergence of the supermarket with the consequent threat of the disappearance of the small shopkeeper have all combined to bring additional pressures to bear on the consuming public.

New and varied answers must be found for continued protection of the peoples' rights.

The Democratic Labour Party is committed to the protection of the rights of the consumer in Barbados.

In the next five years the Party will spare no efforts in its fight against commercial exploitation. The Party will:

- Introduce legislation to enact a Comprehensive Business Code;
- Continue a dynamic Programme of Consumer Education;

- Expand the Consumer Complaints Division in the Prices Control Division;

- Introduce legislation to deal further with all aspects of consumer protection including protection against defective goods and services, false advertising, etc.

- Assist in the formation of Consumer Groups throughout Barbados.

**THE PARTY REMAINS COMMITTED TO A POLICY OF VIGOROUS PRICE CONTROLS.** In the next five years it will intensify the role of the Prices Commission, providing any and all necessary assistance in maintaining fair and reasonable prices to the consumer, with equitable returns to the local producer.

## marketing

The Barbados Marketing Corporation commenced its operations June 1, 1963 and during this first year of its operations the Corporation generated \$86,943.00 in total sales. During the recently concluded Fiscal Period 1975-76, the Corporation achieved sales amounting to 10.4 million dollars. Additionally, the Corporation during its first year of operations purchased a total of \$59,257.00 of local produce and during the fiscal period 1974-75 a total of \$3,060,344.00 of produce was purchased by the Corporation from local producers.

## local vegetable produce

	<u>1963/64</u>	<u>1974/75</u>
Value of Vegetable Produce	\$59,257.00	\$3,060,344.00
Quantity of Vegetable Produce	305,747 LBS.	3,692,418 LBS.
Contracted Farmers	NIL	Over 250

In its continued efforts to stimulate local Agricultural Production, local producers were encouraged to produce more poultry. During the 1973/74 Fiscal Year the Corporation contracted with thirty-seven (37) local producers and purchased a total of 303,124 pounds poultry. During the 1975/76 Fiscal period the Corporation purchased 1,175,869 pounds of local poultry from a total of sixty-six (66) local farmers.

Since the Corporation took over the role as sole importer of poultry it has reduced the food import bill by 4.6 million dollars annually. In addition the Corporation is at present only importing chicken backs and necks and turkey wings which amounts to 1.9 million dollars annually.

Since the Corporation opened its doors for business in 1963 it has significantly increased its channels of distribution by providing retail outlets at Weston, St. James, Speightstown, St. Peter and Eden Lodge, St. Michael. Another such retail outlet at St. Lawrence, Christ Church, will be opened shortly. Plans are currently being developed to establish four (4) more retail outlets at Ellerton, St. George, Four Roads, St. John, Belleplaine, St. Andrew and Six Roads, St. Philip.

The Party will —

- Continue to use the BMC as an instrument for its strategy of increased production of food and as a foil against intolerable and unjust prices.

- Expand the facilities of the BMC to ensure reduction of wastage and upliftment of the quality of Barbadian produced food.



*Garrison School*

## education

Over the past fifteen years, the Democratic Labour Party has placed major emphasis on educational reform in order to meet the demands for more and better education. We have provided additional schools at both primary and secondary level. We set up a National Curriculum Development Council to carry out a complete re-study of all subjects taught in schools. We have introduced a new Education Act. We have improved the career structure in the teaching service. We have provided text books at a nominal rental fee for secondary school students.

We commissioned a study on the performance of pupils in Overseas Examinations, and have implemented a major part of the findings of that study. Performance in these examinations have substantially improved.

We commissioned a study on the operations and effects of the Common Entrance Examinations, and we have begun to implement some of the recommendations contained in the Report.

Through the establishment of the Caribbean Examinations Council, whose headquarters is in Barbados, we are playing a leading role in the creation of an examination system that will be more relevant to the needs of Caribbean students.

All of these new programmes and new ideas have resulted in substantial improvements, both qualitatively and quantitatively in our schools.

During the next five years we will keep up the momentum for educational change and improvements initiated by our Party. We will

- \*continue to introduce new curricula in our schools through the machinery of the National Curriculum Development Council in order to make school programmes more relevant to the business of living. In particular more emphasis will be placed on skills training and practical subjects;
- \*implement fully the Education Act and the Regulations being made thereunder;
- \*provide more facilities for nursery education in Nursery Schools, in existing primary schools and in Day Nurseries;
- \*place greater emphasis on primary education in order to maintain a solid foundation for future learning experiences;
- \*provide more secondary school places, the construction of new schools and the extension of existing buildings;



*School Meal Workers*

- \*continue the process of educational reform by implementing those recommendations of the Shorey Report which have been accepted;
- \*maintain and develop excellence in our secondary schools programme. In particular, the programme to up-grade the newer secondary schools will be continued in order to minimize differences in schools;
- \*introduce an in-service course in school administration for senior school personnel;
- \*provide more training opportunities for teachers;
- \*revise the teacher training programmes at Erdiston Teachers' College;
- \*open the new campus of the Barbados Community College and begin construction of the new Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic;
- \*award Associate Degrees to students successfully completing the designated courses at the Barbados Community College and seek recognition for that Degree from institutions of higher learning both in the Caribbean and beyond;
- \*continue to support the University of the West Indies as a regional institution within the context of greater localization;
- \*provide continuing education for early school leavers and adults in Extension Division of existing secondary schools. These programmes will be under the administrative control of the Heads of those schools;
- \*extend the programme of special education for those who are handicapped.



*S.J.P. Polytechnic*

**youth, sport and culture**



*Development of Our Youth*

## youth, sport and culture

The Democratic Labour Party has a deep and abiding interest in the growth and development of the young people of Barbados. No other party has done as much for the young people of this country as the D.L.P. has.

We have extended educational opportunities so that young people can obtain a sound general education as well as acquire the skills necessary for earning a livelihood. The programmes at the Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic are cases in point.

The D.L.P. lowered the voting age to 18 thereby giving young people a full say in national affairs.

The D.L.P. developed industrial estates and created the economic climate for expansion in the business and commercial sectors, thereby creating new job opportunities for young people.

The D.L.P. established the National Stadium and other playing fields and sports facilities throughout the country, thereby creating opportunities for recreation and competitive sport.

The D.L.P. established a Youth Affairs Division and created a post of Youth Adviser in order to give special attention to the needs of young people.

Over the next five years we will:

- \*create more job opportunities for young people
- \*establish Skills Training Institutes at different centres throughout the island in order to provide out of school practical training for young people. These Institutes will stress basic competence in a number of skills and crafts, discipline, responsible citizenship, co-operation and pride in work.
- \*re-organize the National Advisory Council on Youth Affairs
- \*develop playing fields and sports facilities
- \*provide additional coaches to seek out and develop the sporting talent of the nation and provide training opportunities for these coaches
- \*re-vitalize the National Sports Council
- \*provide administrative and secretarial assistance to sporting organizations
- \*re-structure the Sports Department

- \*construct a National Auditorium as a home for the Arts in Barbados
- \*assist artists in developing their talents through local and overseas training programmes and through the provision of opportunities for sharing experiences
- \*provide in educational institutions more trained personnel in the arts.



*Minister of Agriculture Anderson Morrison and Prime Minister Errol Barrow listening to sugar factory workers.*

## agriculture

Our increased output during the past six years of agricultural production on less acreage of land confirms the rightness of our diversification policy. The Party in the next five years, will intensify its efforts at diversification of agriculture.

We will:

Develop new commercial crops, including cauliflower, broccoli, radish, kohlrabi, peas, asparagus, beans, Chinese Cabbage, and several varieties of watermelon.

Following two years of intensive experiment (with help from Chinese agricultural expertise) it is now clear that Barbados can proceed toward self-sufficiency in vegetable production. This is the aim of the Party. In this connection, Government owned lands will be utilized, in the first place, for demonstration purposes, as was the case with our successful development of the Onion Industry in Barbados.

The Party believes that education and farming are inexorably linked in development of our country. To this end, heavy emphasis will be laid on —

Re-training existing farmers

Introducing new skills to your farmers.

More scholarships in agricultural and agriculture-related fields will be provided for. We will continue —

To conduct research toward increased output of sugar per acre;

To further explore production of cheaper animal feeds; from sugar cane and other grasses and fodders;

To grant subsidies for agricultural production;

To assist the further development of the dairy, sheep, poultry and pig industries;

To encourage by whatever means necessary continued development of Agro-based industries.

In addition, we will:

Commercialize rabbit production especially through small farmers and 4-H organizations;

Introduce new systems for Agricultural Credit;

Consider early proposals for zoning of all agricultural land according to production capability of the soil;



*"Instruction on Food Processing"*

Implement Rural development projects aimed at redistribution of land especially among young Barbadian farmers;  
Intensify the policy of guaranteed markets to farmers;  
Improve systems of irrigation wherever possible, including examination of irrigation Co-ops.

The Party is satisfied that in small countries development of Co-ops is not only worthwhile but vital.

To this end, we will:

Restructure the Co-Op Division of the Ministry responsible for Agriculture.

Apart from additional staff, expertise through multilateral assistance will be increased.

It continues to be the Party's goal to:

- a) Increase the income levels and better the social conditions for those who derive their living from fishing
- b) Reduce the amount of money spent on importation of fish;

We have secured a grant from the European Development Fund for major developments at Oistins. These include:

\*A new market, wharf and Jetty

The Party also plans to —

- \*improve, construct and equip fishing boats capable of staying at sea and fishing for long periods;
- \*provide such incentives as subsidies, grants, loans and tax concessions so as to stimulate fishing activity at the fisherman level (some of these have already been put into effect);
- \*provide training opportunities for all aspects of the industry, both by way of local programmes and by participation in the Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute programme.
- \*increase technical assistance to the industry by way of improving the local staff and by assistance from external agencies;
- \*encourage further development of fishing Co-operatives wherever feasible.

It is estimated that One million three hundred thousand dollars will be spent improving the facilities for fishermen, vendors and the general public at Oistins alone.

Other areas around the coast have been selected and will be improved after the Oistins development.

## external affairs

The Democratic Labour Party considers national economic development to be the main goal in the conduct of the foreign policy of this country. We will therefore continue to place emphasis on those economic and trading relationships which will assist in the task of improving the quality of life of the people of Barbados.

The Ministry of External Affairs and particularly the Missions abroad will be restructured in keeping with the change of emphasis in their role.

In the various councils of the world and in our relations with other countries we will seek to promote our cherished values of freedom, democracy and respect for the individual.

## the western hemisphere

We will maintain the friendliest of relations with the countries of the Western Hemisphere and will participate in those programmes of action which will promote the economic interests of the countries of the area.

While we support hemispheric cooperation for development of the countries of the area, we insist that the principle of non-intervention in our domestic affairs and those of other countries must be adhered to.

Economic integration of the Caribbean will receive particular attention in the efforts towards regional cooperation.

## the third world

We will extend and strengthen relations with other countries of the Third World with whom we have common interests and where co-operation with other countries will be to our mutual advantage.

We support these countries in the fight to eliminate world poverty and to remove unjustified discrimination between and within the countries of the world. We will join the struggle to establish a more equitable framework for the development of the poorer nations and to wrest from the richer nations better trading arrangements.

## **international co-operation**

In a world of increasing interdependence, we are firmly committed to multi-lateral co-operation especially for economic and social development.

## **united nations**

We continue to regard the United Nations as the best forum through which conditions of peace and harmony among the nations of the world may be established. There are many areas in which the UN has achieved much in improving conditions of life around the world and we will continue to support the organization, and participate in its activities and several specialized agencies.

## **commonwealth**

We believe that the Commonwealth provides a unique framework for multilateral co-operation and we will seek to play within that framework a constructive role in the efforts towards a solution of the problems which member nations face from time to time.

## **legal affairs**

The Democratic Labour Party considers that there is need for a change of emphasis in the provision of legal services in this country. The needs of the public must be regarded as paramount and we shall seek to provide further and better service particularly in the following areas:

### **legal aid**

The Party will improve the system of Legal Aid and advice which would give the widest possible service of legal representation and advice to persons of small means, including a service to ensure that —

1. no citizen is deprived of legal representation and advice on the grounds of his inability to pay for such representation and advice, and
2. every citizen will have the opportunity to be fully informed of his rights under the law, of the effect of laws upon him and of his obligations under the laws;
3. all new laws are known and explained.

## **title to land**

The antiquated system and procedure for acquiring and transferring title to land is being replaced by a modern and less costly system of land registration whereby titles to land will be guaranteed by Government under laws now being drafted by the Attorney-General.

## **children and young persons**

The Party will continue its programme of modernizing all those laws which deal with and protect the interests of children and young persons. We will establish a new system of internship for youthful offenders.

## **re-organization of the registration office**

The Registration Office will be re-organized to cope with the increased volume of work resulting from:

- a) the new system of registration of titles;
- b) the increased duties to be performed under legislation passed within recent years.

## law reform

The Party will accelerate the programme of revising and updating all those laws which are outdated and obsolete. We will seek to establish an independent statutory body the staff of which would be able to devote their full energies to this function.

## recreation and leisure

The Democratic Labour Party is firmly committed to the preservation of the heritage of the people of Barbados and to enhancing the natural beauty of the country for the peaceful enjoyment of its citizens. In this connection, the dynamic efforts of the Parks and Beaches Commission have been universally acclaimed.

The good work of the Commission will be continued and additionally we will work towards —

1. the development of rural parks throughout the country;
2. the completion of the development plans for the King George V Memorial Park;
3. the execution of the plans already prepared for the Underwater Park;
4. the protection of our cliffs and wooden areas;
5. the further provision of beach facilities in popular bathing areas.

## women

The Democratic Labour Party will continue its programme of ensuring that the women of this country are able to play a full role in the life of the community.

Since 1961 we have improved tremendously the maternal and child health services. Women have shared in the general economic, educational and social advancement of the country. In addition we have passed the Succession Act enabling the common law wife and the

illegitimate to inherit property. We have secured the jobs of pregnant women. Our laws relating to the rights of women are among the most liberal found anywhere.

We have recently established a Commission on the Rights of Women and we will give prompt consideration to any recommendations made by that Commission.

## welfare services

The Welfare Services are integral and important parts of the Democratic Labour Party government's policy of bringing about improvement in the living standards of our people in the well-being of individuals and families and in the continuing search for social justice. We consider these services to be society's compensation to individuals and families who are deprived, in need and unable without help to cope adequately with the demands of living. We view these services too as a form of redistribution of income from the more well off to the least able in our society, thereby furthering our fundamental objective of bringing about greater economic and social equality.

Over the past years we have been able on a planned basis to bring assistance to deprived individuals and families. For instance in 1961 the former government paid old age pensioners a meagre \$2.15 per week. Today, as a result of no less than six increases, the Democratic Labour Party government is providing assistance to these pensioners at the rate of \$13.00 per week and in six months time this will be increased to \$16.00 per week. Our Government has further expressed its care and concern for the aged by paying the pensions to them by cheque in a pilot scheme.

The neglect of the aged by the former government was also evident in its treatment of deprived children and working mothers requiring day care for their infants. Out of the sixteen public Day Nurseries now in existence, eleven were opened by the present Government. All seven Children's Homes have been opened by the present Government. In addition new legislation has been placed on the Statute Books.

The thrust of our Welfare policies over the next five years will be to put disadvantaged individuals and groups into more effective contact with the resources they need for overcoming their particular problems.

Specifically we will

- \*implement our promise to increase the rate of old age pensioners still further;
- \*provide more accommodation for the aged and destitute through the opening of a new block at the St. Philip District Hospital, as well as through the development of "family unit" homes;
- \*develop the St. Michael District Hospital into an institution specializing in the care of the aged who are chronically ill;
- \*raise the Means Test ceiling from its present figure of \$15.00 per week, thereby enabling even more of our senior citizens to qualify for old age pension. The ultimate objective is the elimination of the test;
- \*continue the present policy of providing new Day Nurseries to assist working mothers with the care of their pre-school children while at the same time providing stimulating experiences for the children;
- \*develop more accommodation for deprived children on a "family unit" basis rather than on an institutional basis;
- \*increase the grants payable under the National Assistance Regulations in respect of children under 16, able-bodied adults and disabled persons;
- \*expand the Family-Case Work Section as well as other Sections of the Welfare Department;
- \*enable the blind and deaf mutes to qualify for assistance under the National Assistance Scheme at the age of 18;
- \*implement a programme of vocational rehabilitation for the disabled;
- \*effect greater co-ordination between the Welfare Services and other Government Departments and Agencies such as the Labour Department and the National Housing Corporation.

## communications and works

Roads, water and electricity are vital components in the Democratic Labour Party's strategy for development over the next five years. We believe that people are entitled to these facilities as a basic requirement.

No one will deny however that the provision of these services must be part of a phased programme of development.

We have carried out several road improvement projects. Paved surfaces have been provided in villages without such services. The number of water services to private homes rose from 17,831 in 1961 to 51,271 in 1976. There has also been a remarkable increase in the number of homes served with electricity.

During the next five years we will: —

- \*continue the programme of highway improvement
- \*provide adequate roads on a phased basis to villages and districts not now served
- \*carry out additional drainage projects
- \*study our water resources in association with the Inter-American Development Bank
- \*continue the policy of involving the private sector in public road construction projects.

## labour

The Democratic Labour Party has always acknowledged the pivotal position which the workers occupy in this country and has adopted measures in recognition of this. For example, the National Insurance Scheme, The Severance Payment Scheme, the recently enacted legislation to protect the jobs of pregnant women are among the most fundamental measures ever taken in the interest of the workers of this country.

The Democratic Labour Party will continue to work closely with the workers' organizations to improve the material and social well-being of the worker and will aim towards the following objectives:

1. To raise the minimum pensions payable under the National Insurance and Social Security Act; to improve other benefits and to continue to work towards the development of the National Insurance Scheme into a scheme providing full social security protection;
2. To revise the Severance Payment Act to remove the unnecessary requirements and to allow greater protection to workers. Specifically, a period will be fixed within which all severance

payments must be paid and interest will be charged on all payments due thereafter;

3. To encourage worker participation in the decision making process of the enterprise;
4. To pass legislation giving effect to the recommendations of a committee that has reported on the safety and health of workers in factories and other work places and which is currently being drafted by the Attorney-General;
5. To give greater protection to workers against unfair dismissal;
6. To require employers to give adequate notice of intention to close a Plant.

## **energy/1**

The 1973-74 energy crisis demonstrated the need for each country to plan for and conserve its energy resources most carefully. Barbados has so far located, in the past five years, sufficient natural gas to meet our present requirements. We have granted exploration licenses to General Crude Oil Corporation to explore for oil both on the land and off our shores. So far we are providing 600 barrels of oil per day or one-fifth of our daily requirements.

## **energy/2**

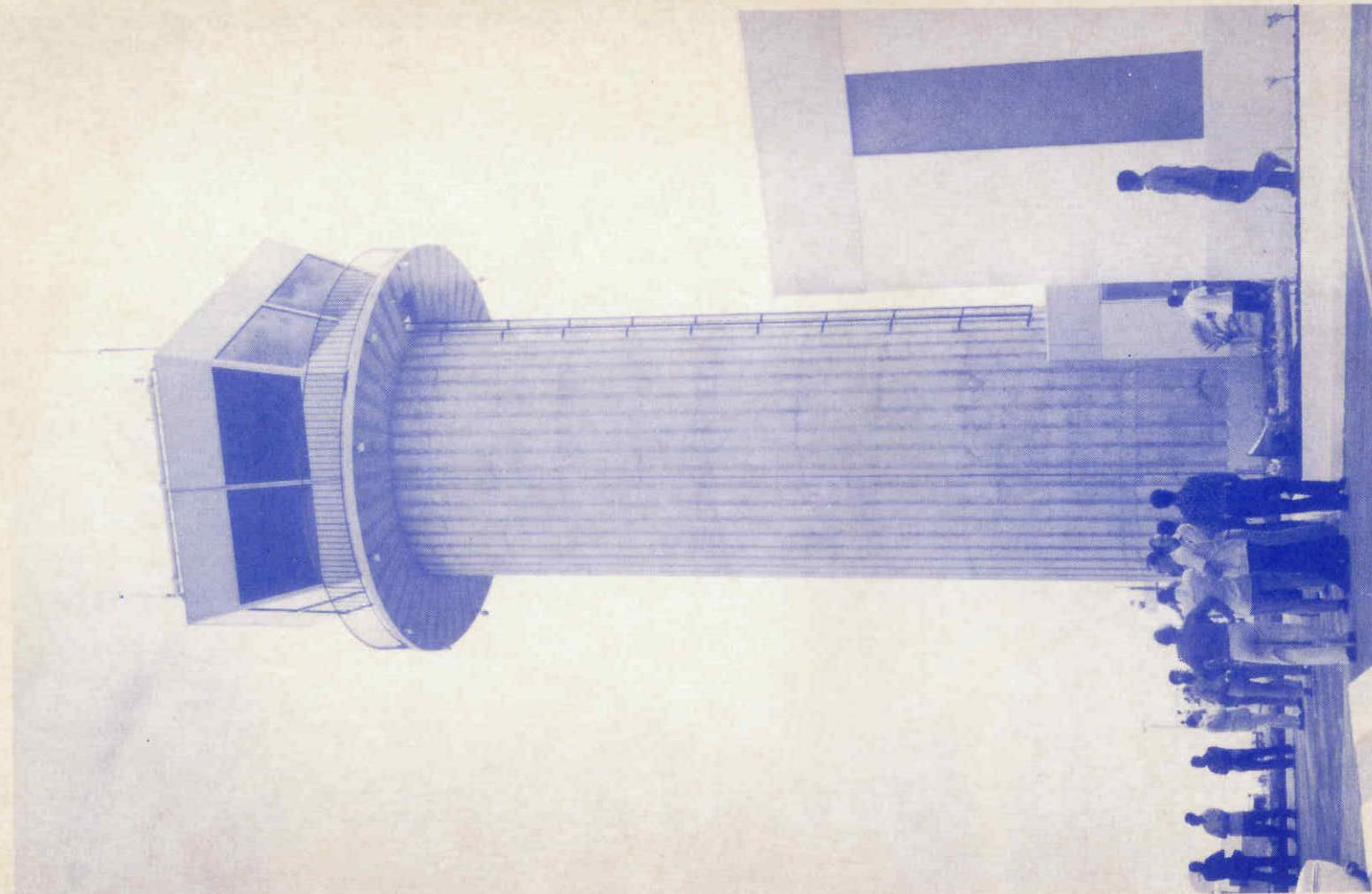
Under the Democratic Labour Party the Government set up a Committee to examine all aspects of our energy needs in Barbados. The Committee has reported and very shortly decisions will be made on the best way to ensure constant delivery of our total energy requirements over the next two decades.

The Party will implement a decision made by Cabinet in 1974 to establish a National Corporation to administer and rationalize the production, importation and sale of petroleum and petroleum products, increase the manpower resources in the appropriate Ministry to bring Barbadian expertise to bear in the distribution and control of oil, gas and related products.

## **tourism**

1. The Summer Season Hotel Employee Training Scheme will be expanded and improved as a result of the experience gained in 1976. It is planned to include other tourism personnel such as taxi drivers, shop attendants and airline employees particularly in the language courses.
2. Arrangements will be made for exchange visits for hotel employees and other tourism personnel with other Caribbean Countries particularly Spanish and French speaking countries.
3. The promotion of group incentive business, particularly in the summer season, will be accelerated upon the completion of the conversion of the former Cable & Wireless premises at Dover.
4. Technical assistance will be provided for small hotels in all aspects of hotel operation.
5. The proposal now being examined by the World Bank and Caribbean Development Bank to create a vacation village at Heywood's, St. Peter, will be advanced. This will provide 300 hotel rooms wholly owned and operated by Barbadians and will result in 450 permanent jobs. The right of the people who use that beach will be fully protected and special facilities for visitors to the village, both Barbadian and foreign will be provided. Job opportunities will open up for the people of the North particularly St. Peter and St. Lucy.
6. The expansion of the present overseas promotional offices of The Board of Tourism and the addition of others in such new markets as Montreal and Florida will be undertaken as market conditions warrant them in order to generate growth in number of visitors.
7. Additional air services and the availability of advantageous incentive fares will continue to be considered developmental priorities.
8. A long-term development plan will be published.

**financial**



*New Control Tower at Seawell Airport*

## financial

Since Independence Barbados has become an active member of the major financial institutions such as The World Bank, The International Monetary Fund, The Inter American Development Bank, The Caribbean Development Bank and has also become eligible for assistance from the European Development Fund of the E.E.C. as an associate under the Lome Convention.

Already the capital works programme under the 1973-77 Development Plan of Barbados has benefited from loans being made available for the extension of the Bridgetown Harbour; The Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic; The Community College; The Bridgetown Sewerage Project; The Higher Education Loan Scheme Fund and studies for the development of the island's water resources. Over one hundred million dollars have been committed by one or other of these international institutions for the development programme under highly favourable terms of repayment at low interest rates with repayment spread over long periods averaging thirty-five years. Many other projects are under active consideration for the development period 1977-1981. We would not have benefited from any if we had not secured our Independence in 1966.

The Caribbean Development Bank has established its headquarters in Barbados and has provided funds to the Industrial Development Corporation for factory construction and is currently assisting with the planning for the proposed cement plant and the 300 room hotel village in St. Peter.

Our Central Bank is now firmly established and is playing a major role in the control of the commercial banks and other financial institutions.

Interest rates are being pushed downwards to facilitate trade and industry and to make house ownership with mortgages more feasible.

Our foreign exchange reserves are in a healthy condition.

The Government has recently negotiated bilateral agreements with the Governments of Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela for loans of twenty million dollars and forty-eight million dollars respectively.

The Government of Canada has made available a loan of \$20 million for the expansion of our airport.

Joint ventures have been undertaken with National Fisheries of Trinidad for shrimping and fishing, with the Government of Guyana for

the ownership of our own cement plant and with Maple Leaf Mills of Canada for the operation of a flour mill and the Government has taken shares in the Barbados Telephone Company.

We are currently negotiating for one half the shareholders equity in Cable and Wireless in Barbados.

The people of Barbados now also own Port Contractors Ltd.; fifteen percent of Leeward Islands Air Transport Ltd.; Fifty-one percent of International Caribbean Airways; Fifty-one percent of Carib West Airways Ltd. It will be seen that in the vital area of communication the Government is not prepared to play a passive role.

By July 1977 the total bus transportation system will be under Government ownership and the services currently provided made more efficient.

Plans will soon be implemented to change the status of the Standing Insurance Committee and to undertake the insurance of all vehicles purchased with the aid of Government loans and of properties built or purchased with the assistance of Government mortgages.

We are moving towards the early establishment of a Comprehensive National Scheme to operate pension funds schemes and all types of personal insurance making it easier for persons to change jobs from the private sector to the public sector and vice versa without losing any retirement or other insurable benefits.

The National Productivity Council has been established recently and is expected to foster a greater appreciation of and facilitate the development process.

Development calls for —

- a) planning — which we have done successfully and which we continue to do.
- b) financing — which we have secured for the execution of the plans,
- c) the mobilization of our manpower resources which will continue as the plans are implemented phase by phase.

In all our development planning the Democratic Labour Party's Government has concentrated on projects which are likely to be productive and save much needed foreign exchange in the long run. Also on those projects which improve the economic mobility of our citizens and which will make them better equipped to command better jobs wherever they may choose to live and work in this competitive world.

We possess the political will and we wish to inspire in every Barbadian the will to succeed. This is our design for living for a free people.

## appendix

### list of d.l.p. achievements 1961-75

1. Free Secondary and University Education.
2. Dramatic Development of Tourist Industry with visitors increasing from 37,000 in 1961 to 221,000 in 1975, and a corresponding move in revenue from \$15.9 million to \$163.1 million. In 1961, 1,000 persons were directly employed in the industry, and 2,000 indirectly employed. The corresponding figures for 1975 are 4,500 and 9,000.
3. Provision of School Meals for over 25,000 primary school children.
4. Construction of East Coast Road, the Treasury Building, the National Stadium, the National Insurance Building, the Hilton Hotel.
5. Construction of the following schools:  
Ellerslie, Springer Memorial, St. Lucy, St. George, the Garrison, Charles F. Broome, St. Bartholemew's Boys', Vauxhall.
6. Loans for Small Businesses and other enterprises.
7. Establishment of Central Bank, the Barbados Development Bank.
8. Restructuring of the Barbados Savings Bank.
9. Introduction of the following major pieces of legislation:
  - (i) Trade Union Act
  - (ii) Severance Payments Act
  - (iii) National Insurance and Social Security Act
  - (iv) Succession Act
  - (v) Sugar Workers Provident Fund
  - (vi) Sugar Workers Minimum Wage and Guaranteed Employment Act.
  - (vii) Tenancies Control and Development Act
  - (viii) Legal Aid
  - (ix) Education Act
10. Increase in Old Age Pensions from \$2.15 per week in 1961 to \$13.00 per week in 1976, to be further increased to \$16.00 per week in 1977.
11. Additional Services to Aged: Free Bus Transportation, relief from Land Tax, Assistance with house repairs, free medical attention in public institutions, payment by cheque.
12. Creation of additional 5,764 jobs in the public service since 1961 when the number employed therein was 9,480.
13. Increase in government revenue from \$26 million in 1961 to \$203 million in 1976.
14. Increase in employment through industry from 416 in 1961 to 7,000 in 1976.
15. Introduction of Radio and Television Services. The number of T.V. sets is currently 35,000.
16. Increase in private telephones from 5,635 in 1961 to 21,747 in 1976.
17. Increase in electricity services to homes from 16,243 in 1961 to 53,058 in 1976.
18. Increase in water services from 17,831 in 1961 to 51,271 in 1976.
19. Increase in private motor cars from 8,592 in 1961 to 28,338 in 1976.
20. Increase in motor cycles from 853 in 1961 to 2,103 in 1976.
21. Establishment of the Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic.
22. Subsidized bus fares for school children.
23. Provision of textbooks for secondary school students at nominal rental fee of \$5.00.
24. Assistance to Agriculture — subsidized fertilizers, aid for irrigation and pasture development, and spraying equipment and chemicals.
25. Price controls on a variety of items, including food in order to reduce cost of living.
26. New Multi-purpose Clinic at Warrens.
27. Improved Health Services.
28. Lowering of voting age to 18.
29. Reduction in Rate of Income Tax.
30. Separation of Earned Incomes of Husbands and Wives for Income Tax Purposes and Increase in rate of Personal Allowances.
31. Independence.

# WE NEED THE DEMS AGAIN

"61"  
OPERATION  
TAKE OVER

"66"  
WE NOW HAVE  
A COUNTRY

"71"  
ADVANCE

"76"  
DESIGN FOR LIVING  
FOR A FREE PEOPLE

# **KEEP Barbados FREE KEEP Voting D.L.P.**

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