

INTO THE 90'S AND BEYOND

MANIFESTO 1991



THE DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY TEAM AT ILARO COURT



... for a Bountiful Barbados

INTO THE 90's AND BEYOND

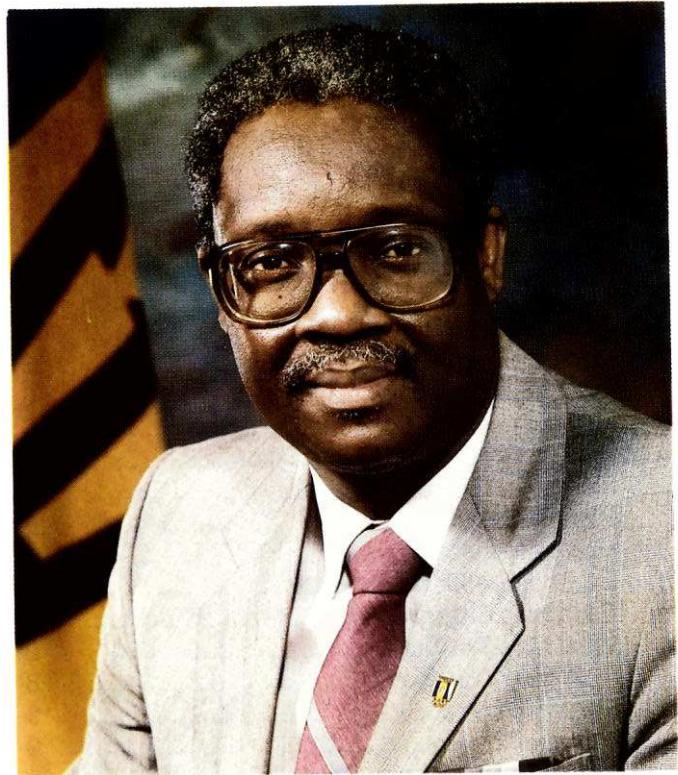
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... for a Bountiful Barbados

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RT. HON. LLOYD ERSKINE SANDIFORD

FOREWORD

FACING THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Over the last four and a half years, the Democratic Labour Party government has done a remarkable job in pulling Barbados back from the depressed economic and social conditions into which it had fallen under the Barbados Labour Party government. Impartial observers praise us for the honest and resolute manner in which we have guided the ship of state through very difficult waters.

Our policies have been so successful that by 1989 we were able to achieve national records for real economic output and related components. We have been playing a leading role in the regional integration movement, while on the international scene the reputation of Barbados as a progressive, democratic developing country has never been higher.

This Manifesto sets out the successes we have achieved over the past four and a half years, and it indicates our programmes and plans for our next term in office. The electorate has a clear choice to make: either to stick with the Democratic Labour Party and its programmes for economic recovery and reconstruction, programmes which are realistic and sound but also challenging and imaginative, or go after pie-in-the-sky opposition promises that glitter today but fade into disappointment tomorrow.

The final decade of the twentieth century presents unprecedented challenges to small countries such as Barbados. The rapid pace of technological change threatens to eliminate significant areas of economic production in developing countries, and to reduce the demand for the products of our workforce. The Democratic Labour Party responds to these challenges by putting before Barbadians a set of economic and social programmes designed to advance us to the position where we can anticipate change rather than react to it, and put in place programmes to benefit from the positive aspects of change.

The way forward for Barbados requires a large vision not confined by our shores, but we must view the world as our stage. The marvels of modern air and sea transportation, the internationalization of markets, and developments in the field of telecommunications and information processing all make this possible. Small as we are, we have demonstrated that we can take on the world for EXCELLENCE in cricket and be supreme. The Democratic Labour Party at this critical juncture in the history of our country, the region and the world calls on all Barbadians to rise to the challenge, and demonstrate to

the world that our genius shown on the cricketing fields resides as well in our handicrafts, in our garment and furniture design, in our craftsmanship, in our delivery of services, among our thinkers, and indeed in all aspects of national endeavour.

We have provided a blueprint to enhance the quality of life for all who live in Barbados, and restore the family to its exalted position in our society. The social and economic programmes contained in our MANIFESTO pave the way to a brighter and better Barbados, a Barbados that is bountiful in goods and services, a Barbados that is bountiful in spirit, and a Barbados that is large in its generosity.

This dream which the Democratic Labour Party calls on all Barbadians to bring to reality requires largeness of vision, hard work, diligence and courage. We still have many problems to deal with. We must continue to safeguard our economic gains and protect ourselves from external shocks. We must shield ourselves from lawless and criminal elements who would destroy our cherished way of life. We must find even more jobs for our people. We must safeguard our heritage and our environment. We must extend the safety net around the disabled, disadvantaged and other vulnerable groups in our society.

The task ahead will not be easy. Fellow citizens with your support and our mutual commitment to freedom, democracy and fundamental rights, we will pull through with your renewed mandate.



L. ERSKINE SANDIFORD

INTRODUCTION

The Democratic Labour Party is committed to the building of a better Barbados under a caring, sharing government. That vision for Barbados was most eloquently captured by Party President Lloyd Erskine Sandiford, in these words:

Vision For Barbados

When I look down the vistas of history, down the decades of time not yet unfolded, I envision a Barbados that will evolve into a truly educated society. I envision a society that respects environmentally the physical condition of our land, its vegetation, animal species, the waters on and around about it, and its atmosphere. I envision a society of healthful people who through their lifestyles and efforts seek to prevent disease, and protect and promote health. I envision a society sustained by the highest possible levels of literacy on which is based a comprehensive curriculum and body of learning experiences for living and for livelihood implemented through a continuing life-long network of formal, non-formal and informal settings. I envision a society that promotes the integration of drama and dance, music and art into the fabric of daily living. I envision a society sedulously practising the process of democracy, protecting human rights, promoting orderly disciplined behaviour, and eschewing violence, crime and all forms of lawlessness through an enlightened criminal justice system. I envision a society in which our citizens earn a satisfying standard of living based on dedicated high quality work for which they are adequately rewarded. I envision a society in which the young, the old, the weak, the handicapped, the sick, the disadvantaged and the underprivileged are cared for in a concerned and caressing network of social support. I envision a society which maintains its loyalty and sovereignty to the motherland of Barbados, but which at the same time embraces our brothers and sisters in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia, in Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, in St. Kitts and Nevis, inMontserrat, in Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago as the natural patrimony of the new Caribbean peoples. But for that new society to come into being certain developments must take place now. The seeds of the future are already implanted in the present time.

(Taken from Prime Minister's address to the Barbados Community College on January 27, 1990.)

Fundamental Goals

In order that our citizenry may live up to the inspiration and the high ideals of that vision, we challenge all Barbadians to dedicate themselves to the following goals over the next five years and beyond:

- * to increase the economy's total output of goods and services;
- * to provide more job opportunities, thereby reducing unemployment;
- * to maintain inflation at moderate levels so that the purchasing power of wages and salaries is not eroded;
- * to enhance labour productivity;
- * to increase living standards;
- * to maintain a sound balance in our external sector through the expansion of exports, the relative reduction of imports, and through judicious borrowing on the capital markets;
- * to increase investment from both domestic and foreign sources;
- * to maintain the national debt at sustainable levels;
- * to provide better health, education, training, housing and infrastructure;
- * to increase food output; and
- * to enhance the security, protection, values and self-esteem of our people.

New Enterprise Administration

A main thrust of the next Democratic Labour Party Government will be to work for greater economic justice in our nation. This is an idea whose time has come. In a growing economy there will be winners and losers. It is however socially inexcusable that the losers should always be the broad masses of people. Our increasing wealth should be more evenly distributed and shared by many more. We must bring economic enfranchisement to more of our people on the grounds of social justice. Independence must start with the individual, the family, and the household. Each individual must have a stake in Barbados. An expanding economy creates the most favourable conditions for bringing many more persons in the mainstream of economic life. New opportunities in the exports sector beckon new entrepreneurs. Small busi-

nesses in particular hold out hope for new businessmen and new job opportunities to emerge. Personal finance and business courses must be taught to our young people as part of this new thrust.

The next Democratic Labour Party Government will set up a New Enterprise Administration to implement this idea.

This is a people-oriented programme, and from its inception the Democratic Labour Party has been a people-oriented party. It has always seen development in terms of improving the quality of life for all sectors of our community, rather than mere "things". Thus though the party can boast of its political, economic and infrastructural achievements during its terms of office, it is its social programmes in SOCIAL SECURITY, EDUCATION, HOUSING, HEALTH and other welfare initiatives which attest most clearly to its contribution to the improvement of the quality of life of our people.

During three earlier terms of office the challenge of this people-oriented approach to development was the institutionalization of mechanisms to ensure access to those services which are critical to improvement in the life of the community.

The period 1976-1986 marked the abandonment of this people-oriented strategy, and it is clear that many of our current social problems and concerns stem from the materialistic ethos which was the hallmark of the government from 1976 to 1986.

During that period our success in improving the standard of living was achieved at the expense of the "quality of life" in our island home.

In our pursuit of the "things of life" we have tended to forget the values of life.

Because of the low priority given to people development by the BLP administration, the period since 1986 has absorbed much of the energies of your DLP government in containing and reversing the "fall out" from ten years of a "things" ethos.

Naturally this transition has produced its stresses and strains.

Let it be clearly understood that your DLP Government is strongly committed to providing improved standards of living for all our people, especially for the disadvantaged in our community.

What we are committed to, as we move into the 1990's, is the provision of the optimum balance between improved standards of living and an enhanced quality of life.

We see the critical challenge of development in the 90's and beyond as improving the quality of life for our people in terms which recognize the kind of world in which

we now live.

It is a world in which, as a small island state, we cannot isolate ourselves from the ripple effects of what happens in the more developed countries in economic, social or cultural terms.

It is a world in which materialism and self interest prevails rather than a commitment to the common good.

It is a world in which, sensitive to the imperatives of regional cooperation as important in our arsenal of strategies, we will maintain and improve the quality of our lives only by sustained cooperative effort.

This must be complimented by a commitment to our traditional values such as hard work, thrift, tolerance, a deep sense of community, a concern for those less fortunate, and a commitment to the family as the foundation of our social fabric.

In particular we must also see the family units as the major source of guidance and nourishment of our young people in an age when the reality of instant and easily accessible communication exposes our youth, more than ever before, to the impact of social and cultural norms alien to our traditional values as a Christian and caring people.

Our vision, our goal is to continue the upliftment of Barbadian society in economic, social, institutional and cultural terms.

We aim to provide more jobs, better access to humanistic and cultural values. We aim to raise the self-esteem of our people. We aim to increase the economic cake, but we are also committed to economic justice for all, and to a widening of economic choices.

Our vision is one of empowering our people to break away from the syndrome of dependency, and grasp the opportunities for upward mobility and self fulfillment.

In short, as we look towards the decade of the 90's and beyond, we pledge a development strategy which is "participatory" in the fullest sense of the word.

We pledge to ensure the achievement of the highest possible standards of living for all our people. We pledge a caring approach to the concerns and problems of the vulnerable groups in our society, especially the **youth, women, the aged, the handicapped, and the disadvantaged**. Above all we pledge our commitment to working with you to ensure that together we redress the trend of the 1976-1986 period towards the erosion of those values which give meaning to "improving the quality of life".

We ask you to help us realize the dream enshrined in our National Anthem.

**"THESE HILLS AND FIELDS BEYOND RECALL
ARE NOW OUR VERY OWN."**

THE ECONOMIC PROGRAMME

The next Democratic Labour Party Government will implement a sound, forward-looking and responsible economic programme which will take Barbados through the nineties and into the new century. Continuing prudent management of our economic and financial resources will result in the further growth and development of our country and its people.

This is not just idle and irresponsible talk such as emanates from the Opposition. Already there is tangible proof of what the DLP is doing, and of how remarkably successful our policies have been:

Record Gross Domestic Product

In Barbados, the Gross Domestic Product, which is a measure of the total output of all final goods and services provided in a country, reached \$2,896.4 million in 1989, the last year for which complete figures are available. That performance is the highest in our country's history. During 1986 to 1989 real output of goods and services increased by an annual average rate of 3.7 per cent, compared with a negative 0.3 per cent during 1981 to 1985.

Most Visitor Arrivals

We were able in 1989 to attract a record number of stayover visitors (461,259), and a record number of cruise ship passengers (337,100), to register the largest number of visitors (798,359) ever to visit our shores in one year.

Highest Level of Construction Activity

The construction sector registered its highest level of activity ever to reach the record value of \$66.9 million in 1989. There were more housing starts and also more housing completions in 1989 than in any other year. Residential mortgages outstanding also reached their highest value ever in the history of Barbados.

Record Gross Capital Formation

Gross capital formation or investment, which is indicative of the national effort to forego present consumption for future output and income, and which is represented by increases in the nation's stock of build-

ings, plant, machinery, equipment and inventories of finished goods, reached the record value of \$656.3 million in 1989.

Increased Labour Productivity

Labour productivity has increased in response to improved training, better equipment, improved technology and a peaceful industrial relations climate.

Higher Standard of Living

The per capita GDP, which is the best and most comprehensive measure of the general level of economic well-being in a country, reached the record figure of \$11,274 million in 1989. That figure represents the highest standard of living ever attained by the people of Barbados.

Moderate Inflation

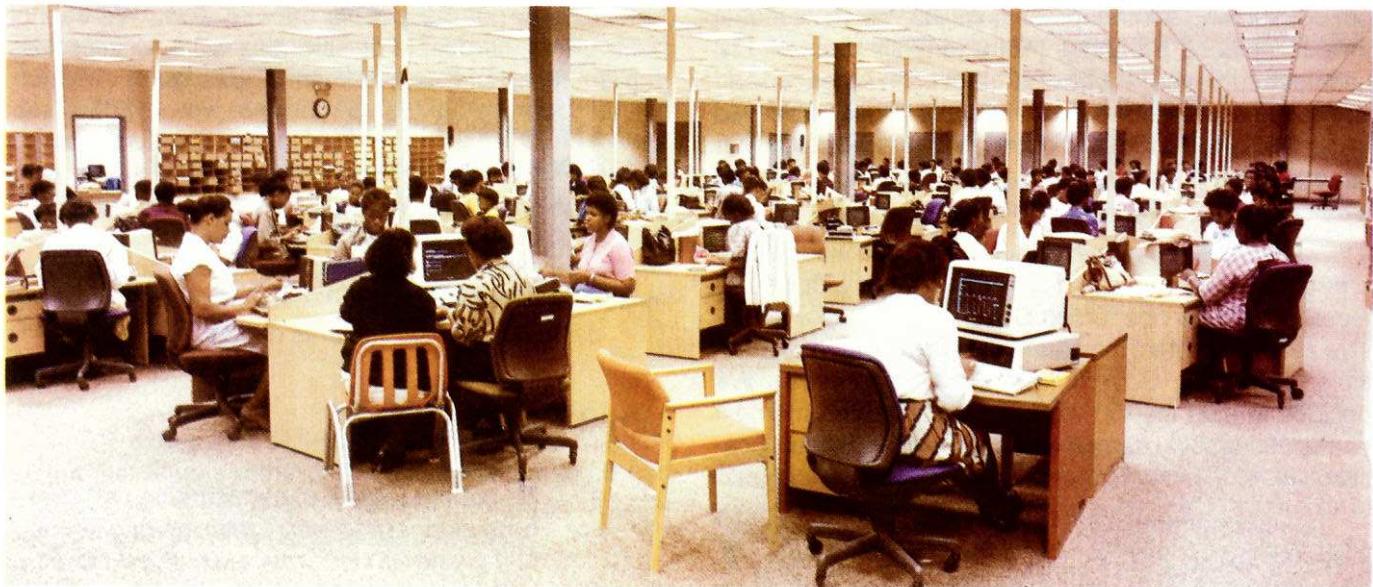
The rate of inflation has been kept at a moderate level of 6.2 per cent for 1989 compared with a high of 14.6 per cent for 1980.

Expenditure Management - No Squandermania

For the fiscal year 1989/90 current spending by Government rose by 7.1 per cent compared to an average annual rate of growth of 8.9 per cent for the decade. Government's total expenditure rose by 2.9 per cent compared with an average annual growth rate of 7.8 per cent since 1980. Government's fiscal deficit, net of amortization, as a percentage of GDP was 2.3 per cent, the lowest since 1975/76. This represents strenuous and successful efforts to manage national expenditures prudently, and proves that opposition allegations of squandermania is really stupidity on stilts.

Economic Background

In spite of these unparalleled and most commendable achievements, the prophets of doom and gloom have been seeking to depreciate and disparage the solid work of the Democratic Labour Party Government. The fact is that the Barbadian economy entered upon the



Data processing is the fastest growing sector in industry and currently employs some 1,400 people. The recent establishment of a highly technical Teleport will result in the doubling of this number in the next three years.

1980's facing severe depression, and by 1981 the BLP Government had placed the country in the hands of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). On assuming office in 1976 the BLP administration depended heavily upon external borrowing to support economic expansion with great emphasis upon the non-trading sectors. The BLP Government was able to rely on foreign borrowing because of the great successes of the DLP Government during 1961-1976. Our foreign debt stood at the small sum of \$50.2 million in 1976. When the BLP was thrown out of office in 1986 the foreign debt had increased by 900% over the 1976 level.

The full weight of the BLP foreign borrowing began to take its toll on our economy after 1984 when the external debt service rose from \$106.4 million in 1985, to \$187.2 million in 1986, to \$269 million in 1987, to reach a peak of \$305.3 million in 1990. We must stress that the high external debt service payments between 1987 and today were to pay for the huge foreign borrowings of the Barbados Labour Party Government. The build up in foreign debt under the BLP and their failure to turn around exports presented our country with the serious problem of declining exports and rising external debt service. To make matters worse the BLP Government made little or no provision for the repayment of the debt. The DLP Government responded by pushing TOURISM which performed magnificently. We also reaped great successes in the promotion of financial services for export. From a paralyzed position at the end of 1986, export manufacturing staged a gradual recovery marked by a high point in 1988. In AGRICULTURE we averted the collapse of sugar and expanded exports of non-sugar

products. The weak performance of the export sectors apart from TOURISM and FINANCIAL and INFORMATION SERVICES forced Government to borrow externally to supplement repayments of foreign debt as they became due.

The pre 1986 merchandise export figures grossly overstate their foreign exchange earnings contribution to the Barbadian economy. This is so because the foreign earnings generated by plants such as INTEL, COROCOM and PLAYTEX though reflected in our foreign exchange earnings figures were not returned to the local economy. In order to present a true picture of the export performance we have to net out the contribution of these "offshore" plants.

Where we can make proper comparisons as in the case of TOURISM, and FINANCIAL SERVICES the performance of the DLP administration is vastly superior to that of the BLP during 1976 to 1986. When tourists' expenditure in 1989 is compared with 1985 it shows that foreign exchange earnings from tourism increased by 61.3 per cent. This is a fantastic record achieved in difficult circumstances.

The DLP Government has maintained and enhanced Barbados' reputation for economic management, and consequently its international credit-worthiness. At the end of August 1990, the reputable international journal EUROMONEY, in a survey of 118 countries based on a study of economic policies pursued and political stability ranked Barbados (36th) thirty-sixth. Barbados placed among the first two of all Latin America and the English, French, and Dutch Speaking Caribbean. With respect to

our credit rating another prestigious journal, Institutional Investor, placed Barbados (46th) forty-sixth out of 112 countries surveyed, ahead of all other Latin American and Caribbean countries surveyed. This has all been achieved in the face of the economic guerilla warfare waged by our opponents and calculated to harm Barbados' international standing in the world's capital markets.

The weaknesses which surfaced in the world economy during the second half of 1989 together with a rising external debt service forced Government to take defensive action to protect the balance of payments. A responsible and caring Government had no alternative. We decided to hold the fort while we implemented the next phase of our assault upon export growth and diversification.

Our opponents have claimed that the Government is spending too much money, and the private sector has been squeezed as a result. The following facts must be noted:

1. The 1976-86 administration neglected the roads, public buildings, maintenance of important equipment, and provision of supplies to institutions.
2. During 1976 to 1986 training of TEACHERS, NURSES, POLICEMEN, FIREMEN and all categories of PUBLIC SERVANTS was either curtailed or eliminated. Only a few favoured persons were given permission to pursue training, and they usually got leave with full pay.
3. The 1976-86 administration disadvantaged the poor, aged, sick and disabled by siphoning away funds from the NATIONAL INSURANCE FUND through borrowing of long term money from the Fund at 3.5% and 4%.
4. Approximately 42% of Government's recurrent expenditure defrays the cost of wages and salaries in the public service.
5. In order to provide certain essential services, e.g., Transport, Government provides subsidies to a wide range of agencies.
6. Provision of goods and services account for about 12% of recurrent expenditure, amortization 14%, interest and debt 11%, and subsidies and transfers 21%.

Our opponents call for reduction of expenditure. We contend that the DLP Government has managed the national resources prudently. The DLP is committed to keeping our people in jobs. After the massive tax breaks of July 1986 some mature businesses in spite of the enhanced profits laid off workers in the December of 1986. A caring Government had no alternative but to acquire the

resources to put our people back to work. We cannot believe that the people of Barbados will ever accept as imprudent the DLP Government's goals of:

- putting people to work;
- improving our roads;
- repairing dilapidated buildings;
- enhancing the environment;
- restarting training programmes;
- paying our public servants decent wages.

What Can We Cut?

1. To cut the largest expenditure items (wages and salaries) is to create more unemployment, and create conditions more conducive to crime and other social ills which will undermine our economic and political stability. It is simply not true that the private sector, in its current state, has the capacity and the ability to absorb the persons who will be laid off by the Government, if large scale retrenchment is pursued.
2. We cannot cut loan capital repayments.
3. We cannot cut interest payments.
4. If subsidies and transfers are cut, we jeopardize important social services such as HOUSING, HEALTH, EDUCATION, TRANSPORT, HOME HELP SERVICE, and all WELFARE PROGRAMMES.
5. If the capital works programmes are cut many businesses and workers will suffer, and the progress of the country will be seriously retarded.

In 1986 we promised to uplift all Barbadians economically, politically and socially. The record shows that we have kept our word.

Changing Conditions

As we move into the 1990's Barbados faces a rapidly changing environment characterized by:

- consolidation of economic groupings such as the EEC.
- a slowing down of economic growth in the major western industrialized economies.
- a renewed interest by Western developed economies in Eastern Europe.
- the threat of warfare in the Middle East on an unprecedented scale.

As a result of these developments, which reorder international economic relations, Barbados will be required to adopt new trade and investment strategies to deal with the new realities. No one knows with certainty the future of our sugar in Europe. The CARICOM market offers hope for the development of a vibrant MANUFACTURING sector. We must build that market, but we must also look beyond. The environment for public policy is therefore particularly challenging and requires all the creativity and wisdom which a small country can muster.

Fiscal Policy

The experience of the last four years, and a review of the last fifteen years of economic performance has convinced us that a comprehensive rethinking of our fiscal system is required to achieve the following:

1. Stimulate production of goods which can be traded on the international markets;
2. Stimulate foreign exchange earnings.
3. Create new productive jobs.
4. Provide a more stable planning environment to both the private and public sectors.
5. To minimize the cost of administering the fiscal system.
6. To enhance the management of public expenditure.
7. Take steps to ensure that:
 - (a) all residential property, whether owner-occupied or not, should pay property taxes on the same basis, namely on 75 per cent of the improved value;
 - (b) all lands with a site value of \$10,000 or under as determined by the Commissioner of Land Valuation, and which carry no improvement, will carry a tax of not more than \$30. This should benefit many small property owners.
8. Revitalize the Industrial Credit Fund in order to make further loans to the productive sector, including small and medium sized enterprises in tourism, manufacturing, agro-industries, fisheries, services, mining and quarrying. The Fund will be administered by the Central Bank through the eligible financial intermediaries such as the Commercial Banks.
9. Redouble the national effort to mobilize domestic resources, foreign investment, and joint ventures for the establishment of enterprises that can save foreign exchange, but more

importantly, that can earn foreign exchange, thereby helping to redress the traditional deficit on the current account of the balance of payments. Fiscal, financial and commercial policies will be directed to this objective.

Monetary Policy

Policies on MONEY and CREDIT will be devised to support the most rapid rate of expansion in the productive sectors, particularly exports. Monetary and fiscal policy will be formulated to lend mutual support to each other.

In 1988 we liberalized foreign exchange controls by delegating authority to commercial banks to make decisions on applications for foreign currency by traders up to \$20,000 without reference to the Central Bank, and we increased personal ceilings from \$1,500 to \$2,000. A DLP Government promises to:

- * review the operations of the Central Bank, including security arrangements in order to maintain and enhance the Bank's capabilities in the areas of regulating the issues of money, promoting monetary stability, developing a sound financial structure, and fostering credit and exchange conditions for continued economic development;
- * further liberalize foreign currency controls;
- * further facilitate the holding of foreign currency accounts giving priority to exporters of goods and services;
- * provide for establishment of duty free shops where locals will be permitted to purchase duty free items paid for with foreign currency. The receipts of these businesses will be checked daily and deposited with the Central Bank of Barbados;
- * restructure the reserve ratio applied to commercial banks deposit liabilities so as to discriminate in favour of TIME DEPOSITS.
- * refine the categories of credit to facilitate adequate flows of such credit to the productive sectors, particularly where businesses are engaged in a wide variety of activities.

International Financial Services

Barbados has established a good reputation as a centre for International Business Companies. In order to prepare for the next stage of financial services development, a DLP Government plans to institute the following:

1. Introduce incentives to encourage further diversification, upgrading and automation of financial services.
2. Introduce incentives to stimulate the growth of institutions which specialize in providing investment portfolio management services and other sophisticated specialized fee based activities.

Economic Policy

The policy of a Democratic Labour Party Government is to develop to the fullest the potential of the industrial, agro-industrial and other productive and service sectors of the economy, with a view to meeting the economic development and employment needs of Barbados. A DLP Government will continue to strengthen the investment climate in order to encourage local and foreign investors. We recognize that the world is changing rapidly. In fact no sooner is there an innovation than it becomes redundant. Our policies are intended to exhibit stability, and flexibility to deal with the reality of rapid change.

Public and Private Sector

The Democratic Labour Party is fundamentally committed to a mixed economy in which both public and private institutions participate to provide the goods and services required by the economy and society. The private sector is larger by far than the public or government sector. Agriculture, including fishing, is substantially a private sector activity, so too are the manufacturing, tourism, commerce, finance and service sectors. But the government sector carries out the inescapable important economic functions of regulating the economy and society, correcting failures in the free market mechanisms, promoting equity through its taxing and spending powers to redistribute income and wealth, and promoting economic stability through moderating the fluctuations in the business cycle, and through controlling unemployment and inflation.

The Democratic Labour Party believes that the government must intervene in the economy in the public interest in order, among other things, to alleviate poverty, to help the weak, disadvantaged and disabled, to supply goods and services which the private sector either would not supply at all or in inadequate amounts. The party is aware that in the United States many cities run their own public transport services. The party is also aware that there have been business failures and financial difficulties in the private sector. The party therefore adopts a pragmatic stance on the question of privatization, with each case being treated on its merits.

Successive administrations have seen the wisdom in initiating directly productive economic activities, such as the Pine Hill Dairy, Barbados Feeds and the Hilton and Heywoods hotels. The rationale for Government participation in directly productive activities in countries such as Barbados is an awareness that there is a shortage of entrepreneurship and risk capital. At another level services such as TRANSPORT, if left entirely to private initiative, are likely to result in inadequate provision on long haul and sparsely populated routes, consequently impacting adversely upon the development of a balanced residential and industrial landscape.

The DLP recognizes that there is no sense in clinging to a justification of yester-year, long after objective reality has changed. The DLP is aware of the strengths and weaknesses of private sector exclusive control of activities vital to the social and economic development of Barbados. The DLP is equally conscious of the merits and demerits of public sector control of directly productive activities, and even some areas of indirectly productive activities. Because the DLP is committed to the tenets of social and economic democracy, the Party is unwaveringly committed to widening the ownership base of our real productive assets. Accordingly, a DLP Government policy on DIVESTMENT will seek to avoid a further concentration of the society's wealth, and seek to promote the wider public interest. A DLP Government proposes to divest itself of specified directly productive assets along the following lines:

Eighty percent of all divested assets will be offered to the following agencies and organisations:

1. Twenty percent to the National Insurance Board.
2. Twenty percent to the Cooperatives sector.
3. Twenty percent to Workers' organisations.
4. Twenty percent to specified established social organisations.
5. Twenty percent to the public.
6. Any resale or shares by a preferred organisation must be offered to one of the listed institutions and, in the last resort, to the Government.
7. A DLP Government will continue to function as a catalyst in promoting critical areas of directly productive activities.
8. The preferred method of investment is "joint venture" between the Government and local or foreign capital.

The next Democratic Labour Party Government will:

- * actively encourage the growth and development of the private sector paying particular attention to small businesses;

- * welcome foreign capital in the productive sectors but not at the expense of local enterprise;
- * continue to offer fiscal and other supports to industry and provide the necessary infrastructure;
- * give special consideration to industries that earn foreign currency. Special facilities will be set up at the ports to expedite transactions of an export nature.

The Democratic Labour Party will also:

- * establish a committee to carry out a comprehensive review of the tax system, with particular reference both to the relative merits of direct versus indirect taxation, and also to the fairness and equity of revenue raising measures;
- * establish an Off-shore Business Advisory Committee to advise on various aspects of off-shore banking, international business companies, international shipping, foreign sales corporations as well as other areas of the off-shore sector;
- * introduce a new Financial Institutions Act to promote efficiency in the financial system, to provide greater protection for depositors and other investors, to enhance public confidence in the soundness of the system, and generally to monitor, supervise and regulate the activities of financial institutions;
- * seek to diversify the financial system by attracting other financial institutions and intermediaries such as merchant banks to deepen the financial services sector and increase the flow of investment finances;

Distributive Trades

The DLP recognises the crucial role of the Distributive sector in promoting real productive activity. The DLP Government removed the draconian credit controls established by the BLP administration, and kept in place for several years. No reasonable person objects to the reimposition of selective credit controls in October 1989, when the performance of the external sector softened.

The next DLP Government proposes to:

- introduce measures to further integrate the distributive system with domestic production;
- establish two DUTY FREE TRADE ZONES in an appropriate location.

Agriculture

Agriculture continues to play an important role in the economy. The foreign exchange contribution of sugar and its provision of raw materials to the rum industry are particularly significant at this time. Non-sugar agriculture has shown substantial growth, and is an important factor in saving foreign exchange. The Democratic Labour Party policies will provide a climate conducive to various types of commercial agriculture. Our policies will seek to accelerate the pace of agricultural diversification and enhance links between agriculture and the rest of the economy. To this end, a DLP Government will implement the following:

A refinancing package for the sugar industry will be worked out on condition that the management structure of Barbados Sugar Industry Limited is reorganized, and that field and factory operations are restructured to achieve greater efficiency.

Price support will provide a medium term planning environment for the sugar industry.

Legislation will be introduced to allow Government to lease for periods up to 10 years, privately owned arable lands over 5 acres which remain idle for more than three years.

A DLP Government will provide capital development and cultivation grants to bring idle land back into production under appropriate crops and livestock.

Agricultural land use planning will be further intensified and major zones established:

Zone 1 - Plantation/Agricultural: no subdivision
Zone 2 - Intensive farming: farm size in excess of

18 acres

Zone 3 - Small farm irrigated zone: farm size in excess of 11 acres

Zone 4 - Small farmer/part-time: 3 acres or more

Zone 5 - Zones of transitional use: varied uses

Renewed efforts will be made to exploit the opportunities for establishing a plant for the spinning, weaving and dyeing of cotton.

Government will provide grants to farmers' organizations to establish facilities for manufacturing commercial feeds with a 60% or more weight of locally produced ingredients.

Programmes to enhance meat production will be strengthened.

The Soil Conservation Act will be amended to allow soil and water conservation measures to be applicable to the entire island.

The Cheapside and Fairchild markets will be refurbished as a matter of urgency.

An abattoir of USDA standards will be constructed.

Government will develop all available water resources in order to expand the areas under cultivation.

A DLP Government will undertake a review of all fiscal incentives to agriculture to enhance their effectiveness.

Government will match funds with the 4-H Foundation to provide the Movement with appropriate accommodation and facilities for its headquarters.

A fully equipped Export Agriculture Marketing facility will be constructed by Government and made available for use by major exporters of agricultural commodities.

A DLP Government will provide technical and financial support to the CUT FLOWER INDUSTRY, and a flower industry information data base will be set up.

A tissue culture laboratory will be established.

Multiple-user irrigation projects will receive financing from Government.

Agricultural cooperatives will be encouraged among small farmers to enable them to obtain the economic and financial advantages to be derived through cooperation.

A major thrust will be made to boost agricultural exports.

A plant propagation unit at Bullens Agricultural station will be established.

Fisheries

A DLP Government will implement programmes in fisheries development which will revolutionize the industry and significantly enhance the standard of living of those engaged in the industry. The DLP intends to ensure that the fishing community takes its rightful position as an equal partner in modern industry. We recognize the sea around us as our most plentiful resource, and it is imperative that appropriate strategies be devised to exploit our marine resources. The DLP fisheries policy is geared toward harvesting, processing and marketing large quantities of fish for domestic consumption and for export. We envisage the canning, salting and drying of fish, and the pulverization of fish bones and heads to produce a cheap high protein livestock feed. A DLP Government will seek to implement the following policies:

1. Acquisition of an ocean-going, fully electronically equipped deep-sea fishing fleet.
2. Construction of processing plants.
 - (a) Drying and salting plant.
 - (b) Canning factory.
3. Construction of dry dock facilities on a suitable site to provide marine services locally, regionally and internationally.
4. Construction of a slipway for launching vessels with space provision for a second one in the future.
5. Implementation of measures to improve safety at sea, and protect the marine environment.
6. Upgrading of the fish markets at Consett Bay and Skeete's Bay.
7. Construction of a fishing facility to service the needs of the northern parishes.
8. Provision of technical assistance on appropriate boat design, construction materials, and construction technology in order to revitalize the local boat building industry.
9. Provision of efficient technical assistance and



Research carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture indicates that the production and export of flowers can be a very important element in agricultural diversification. The D.L.P. Government will continue to support the efforts of the Barbados Horticultural Society and private growers.

extension programmes including fishing gear technology, fish handling and fish processing, fish marketing and distribution.

10. Introduction of legislation to protect the marine resources from foreign pirates.
11. Improvement of the fishing boat inspection service.
12. Diversification of fishing methods and species of fish targeted.
13. Provision of appropriate education and training in business management to the owners and operators of fisheries enterprises.
14. Teaching net knitting skills at the Skills Training Centres.

Manufacturing

There can be no denying that the fortunes of manufacturers have fluctuated during the last five years, but it is also generally admitted that the DLP Government,



The Industrial Development Corporation has constructed a number of factory units at Wildey specifically designed to accommodate Food Processing Factories. Among the locally produced commodities which will be processed are Condiments, Jams and Jellies, and Fish. It is also expected that Barbadian Liqueurs and snacks such as Korn Kurls will be manufactured here too.

since 1986, has done more to support MANUFACTURING than any previous Government in our History. The DLP is geared to do much more. Several areas of manufacturing require major restructuring to bring their capability into line with competitors across the world. HIGH QUALITY and EXCELLENCE is the battle cry of a DLP Government.

A DLP Government will do everything possible within the scope of available resources to encourage, assist and nudge our manufacturers to take on the world in EXCELLENCE. To this end a DLP Government will continue to balance the interests of all groups. A DLP Government will consider the following measures to promote industry:

1. tax exemption on dividends;
2. Tax exempt interest on approved borrowings;
3. Import duty exemption on machinery, equipment and materials used in construction.
4. Subsidized factory space.
5. An INVESTMENT ALLOWANCE of 100% spread over three years to recover the cost of capacity expansion in manufacturing.
6. Establishment of a central clearing facility to deal with all matters pertaining to investment decisions in industry. In this way the irritants which are now being experienced will be eliminated.
7. Facilitate the expansion and retooling of industry to enable it to be more productive and quality oriented.
8. Introduce measures to promote development of cooperative enterprises in order to reduce the burden of overheads on individual businesses, and facilitate the penetration of export markets.
9. Provide concessions to attract an international fashion house to set up business in Barbados to produce top range garments primarily for export.
10. Expansion of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic to provide training in cutting and grading of garments.
11. Provide concessions to attract a large offshore furniture manufacturer to enter into a joint venture with local interests, in order to assist in raising local standards of design, plant control, production management and access to extra-regional markets. This will be done in close collaboration with the Design Centre.
12. Provide export subsidies based upon the value of exports.

13. Negotiate for transferable tax write-offs to parent companies of any losses incurred under future double taxation agreements.
14. Tax deductions for training costs.
15. Create opportunities for local manufacturers to operate under foreign franchises.

Small Industries Development Plan

A DLP Government intends to consolidate into a **One Stop Shop** the services of public sector institutions catering to the development of small businesses. The main functions of the Bureau will be in the following areas:

1. FINANCE
2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
3. PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT
4. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
5. FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Finance: The Small Industries Finance Scheme will provide financial assistance to small companies engaged in the manufacture or assembly of products or the provision of supporting services, or services generally. Priority will be given to exporters. The criteria for determining eligibility will pertain to the number of employees, level of output and fixed productive assets.

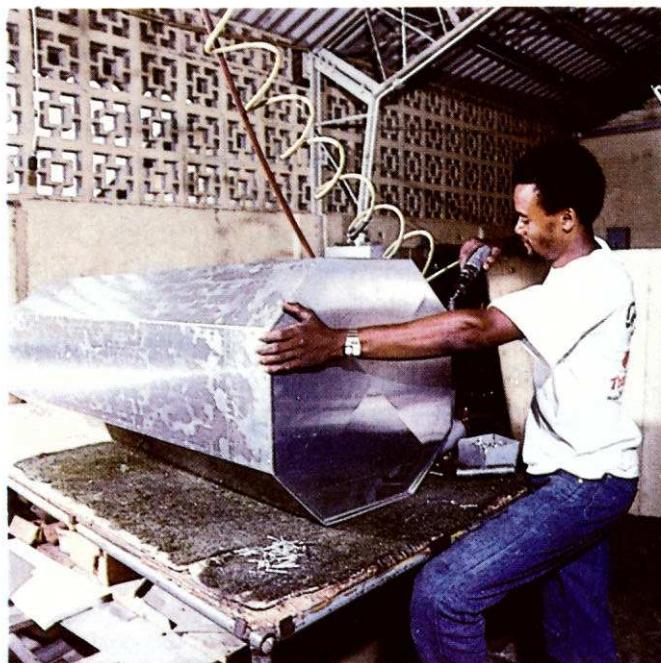
Technical Assistance: This Scheme will seek to encourage and assist small, local companies to upgrade their operations. Applicants must be involved in manufacturing and services for export. A DLP Government proposes to reimburse up to 90% of the approved cost of engaging technical expertise to upgrade business operations.

Skills Development: Training and upgrading of skills are vital to business development. A DLP Government proposes to provide export enterprises with a grant equal to 50% of the approved costs of training to upgrade technical skills for production purposes.

Product Development: In order to encourage local companies to develop products and processes, a DLP Government proposes to offer a grant equal to 50% of approved development costs.

In order to raise the profile of the manufacturing sector, a DLP administration will, in collaboration and consultation with the manufacturing sector, construct and establish at Marshall Hall in Bridgetown an International Trade Centre. This will *inter alia*:

- * provide a venue for manufacturers and craftsmen to display their goods;



Small Business continues to be an important part of the industrial process of the island. Fourteen (14) small businesses have commenced operations in the last year.

The new start-up operations span a wide spectrum of industrial activity ranging from food processing, garment manufacturing to data processing.

- * provide a venue for trade fairs and exhibitions;
- * encourage some international business companies to establish in the Centre.

Handicraft and Handicraft Development hold out many opportunities for creating employment and developing the creative talents of Barbadians. A DLP administration recognized this in the past and will therefore continue and intensify its programmes for the development of this sector. The Party is committed to the following:

The re-development of Pelican Village.

Utilization and modernization of the Queen's Warehouse in collaboration with the private sector to provide an outlet to craftsmen.

Development of a Craft Centre at Belleplaine in order to better utilize the indigenous materials which exist in this area.

Continuation of the factory expansion and refurbishment programme which it has begun, and establishment of a new industrial park at Newton. Land has already been earmarked for this.

The policy of placing industries which are compatible in the same environment will be vigorously pursued.

The DLP will provide factory facilities for "clean room" industry in Barbados with a view to strengthening the food processing, and electronic data processing industries.

A DLP administration will continue to work with members of CARICOM to further deepen the integration movement and expand intra-CARICOM trade.

A DLP Government is committed to the development of Barbados as a key centre in the region for the development of the services sector. Already we have attracted firms such as Donnelly Caribbean Graphics, Caribbean Data Services, Insurance Company of Canada, and there are others exploring the possibility of setting up. Thus, in collaboration with BET, the IDC has completed a Teleport at the Harbour Industrial Park. This will play a pivotal role in the development of the data processing sector.

Additionally, the DLP will give further support to the promotion of the services sector. A package of incentives for this will be provided.

Food processing will be further developed and can add considerably to our export thrust. Consequently, the DLP administration constructed a Food Processing factory at Wildey at an approximate cost of \$1.5 million. The modern state of the art factory will enable food processors to produce a quality product. The response has been so good, that already consideration is being given to establishment of an additional factory.

The DLP will put in place a new regime for the management of the factories on the industrial estates, once they have been allocated and taken up by industries. This will enable the IDC to concentrate more effectively with the business of industrial promotion.

A DLP administration will utilize to the maximum the opportunities which exist under Lome, and CBI, and will encourage the manufacturing sector to participate fully in these arrangements.

The DLP has been concerned about the plight of the consumer in Barbados. Already the Ministry of Trade with responsibility for consumer affairs has appointed a committee to review the existing legislation and make recommendations for the furtherance of care of the consumer. The Party will commit itself to the following:

Strengthening the laws relating to consumers.

Launch a public awareness programme for the consumer.

Encourage the promotion of Consumer Associations.

Provide assistance to the development of a viable consumer group.

The DLP will undertake a divestment programme in

relation to the Arawak Cement Plant and an opportunity will be provided for the business community and individuals to participate in the shareholding of this company. The plant will be restructured to make it into an efficiently run operation.

Barbados Mills and its subsidiaries will be encouraged to dispose of some of its shares to the public. The divestment programme will call for the two shareholders - Barbados Government and Maple Leaf to make some of their shares available to the public. The workers, the general public and the major consumers of their products will be offered some of the equity.

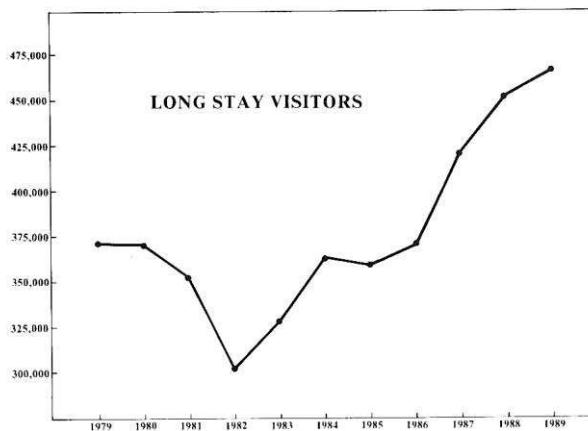
The DLP will further improve the BNSI both in terms of personnel and equipment to enable it to be a more productive and efficient operation.

Tourism

"TOURISM IS OUR BUSINESS - LET US MIND IT"

The Democratic Labour Party Government has a record in tourism development of which all Barbadians can feel a sense of pride and achievement. Since 1986 all the indicators of tourism performance have recorded vast improvements.

1. Total arrivals of visitors excluding cruise ship passengers **increased from 369,770** in 1986 to **461,259** at the end of 1989.
2. Average length of stay **increased from 6.3** to **7.1** nights.
3. Hotel bed rate occupancy **increased from 39.5%** to **62.7%**.
4. Hotel room occupancy **grew from 43.9%** to **64.3%**.





Tourist arrivals in 1989

5. United Kingdom arrivals **grew from** 47,590 at the end of 1986 to 118,122 at the end of 1989.
6. "Other Destinations" **grew from** 34,174 at the end of 1986 to 61,626 at the end of 1989.

Creating An All Year Tourism Industry

In 1986 visitor arrivals excluding cruise ship passengers for the period April to June was 75,380. Three years later arrivals rose to 106,478.

In 1986 visitor arrivals excluding cruise ship passengers for the period July to September were 81,133. Three years later arrivals rose to 113,405.

A major achievement in the tourism sector has been the elimination of a "high" and "dead" season in the industry. All year tourism has been achieved through market diversification, and more aggressive marketing.

Cruise Ship Arrivals

Cruise ship passenger arrivals grew at a phenomenal rate increasing from 145,335 at the end of 1986 to 337,100 at the end of 1989.

Tourism has been the mainstay of the economy since 1986 and at present, is the key to our standard of living. It is estimated that the industry generates one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) in expenditure. A Democratic Labour Party Government wishes to see the scale of the industry increase over the next five years to a two billion (\$2,000,000,000) dollar industry and retain a greater share of tourists' expenditure within our economy. Consideration will be given to redeveloping appropriate mechanisms for enabling the cooperatives sector to participate more in the ownership of accommodation facilities and services catering to visitors.



Consolidating and Building on the Successes Achieved

A Democratic Labour Party Government will give priority attention to the following:

1. Enhance the environment for interaction between visitors and Barbadians through public education programmes, and implementation of surveillance measures to rid the industry of drug peddling and other types of harassment.
2. Establish congenial facilities for use by licensed beach traders.
3. Undertake a thorough review of the Hotels Aids Act to address the new realities of the 1990's. The review will lay the foundations for appropriate policies to encourage the following:
 - (a) expansion of Luxury Hotel plant.
 - (b) expansion of capacity in the Luxury and Elegant Class Hotels.
 - (c) substantial upgrading and refurbishing of Guest Houses and Budget Class Hotels.
4. Increase the amount to be spent on marketing the tourism product.
5. Provide incentives to expand and upgrade food and beverages facilities.
6. Provide incentives to encourage expansion of charter services.
7. Mandatory connection to sewerage plants by hotels, guest houses and business houses where the facility is available.
8. Restructuring the system of duty-free shopping to facilitate visitors while protecting the collection of revenues.
9. Encourage establishment of a central convention facility.
10. Encourage and facilitate upgrading of training at all levels within the industry.
11. Enforce taxi licensing regulations to protect the livelihood of those who work in the industry.
12. Enhance culinary skills in the sector through the Hospitality Division of the Barbados Community College.
13. Introduce measures to integrate the cruise ship sector more fully into the economy.
14. Enhance Barbados' international stature as a premier golfing destination through the con-

struction of an international golf course at Graeme Hall, and at other locations.

15. Continue to promote Barbados as a major destination for Sports tournaments, particularly during the winter season.

Telecommunications

A new Telecommunications Bill which was tabled in parliament but could not be debated before dissolution will be re-introduced. This bill seeks to regulate the very dynamic communications and information sector in order to spread the benefits as widely as possible.

International Transport

A DLP Government will introduce special measures in the International Transport sector which will confer significant benefits on the economy.

Specifically these are:

1. Civil Aviation

the promotion of Barbados as a hub to transportation in the region;

substantial expansion of scheduled and non-scheduled air services into Barbados from North America, Europe and elsewhere;

the upgrading of facilities at the airport to facilitate expanded activity.

Maritime Matters

The building of an attractive new passenger terminal at the Harbour equipped with new and improved facilities for cruise ship passengers. Funding for this project has already been secured.

the provision of marina and related facilities in or close to the Bridgetown area;

establishing Barbados firmly as a Port of Registry;

expansion at the Port to separate cruise ship and cargo activity, to provide new berths and to make better provision for the discharge and storage of containerized cargo;

provision of coastal cruise and boat repair facilities; intensive search to attract new cargo liners to Barbados.

THE SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The social policy of the DLP is grounded in the principles of social justice, social equality and the creation of opportunities to help all of our citizens realize their potential. In keeping with our philosophy we believe that SOCIAL SECURITY, HOUSING, HEALTH, EDUCATION, and the PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES are fundamental human entitlements. We therefore do not accept that these should be dismantled, but we believe that all steps should be taken to eliminate wastage and abuse.

Education

Education is the key to any strategy of people-oriented development, and the primary goal of the Democratic Labour Party education policy is to equip persons for living. In this particular area of public policy the DLP has a record second to none. The following stand as eloquent testimony to this commitment to the education of our sons and daughters. Fully taxpayer funded secondary and university education, school meals, the text book scheme, the Barbados Community College, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, substantial investment on scholarships for our sons and daughters in areas related to national development. Most of these achievements were won in the face of hostility from the BLP and other elements in our society. We recognize that in Barbados, education has been the tool which has enabled poor parents to ensure a better quality of life for their children. Education then, is an important plank in our strategy of achieving greater social and economic justice. To this end we plan to do the following:

- * Enhance and expand nursery education as it is critical to the development of children, particularly those from deprived homes.
- * continue to provide training for our teachers, and public servants, and encourage private industry to provide training support for their employees.
- * Maintain a fully taxpayer funded university education at the Cave Hill campus of the UWI for all Barbadian students who qualify for entry.

Under the BLP all of the above were either stopped or drastically curtailed. During their last term in office they developed a scheme which would have required all Barbadian students (excluding scholarship holders) to pay a percentage of their economic cost in order to attend the UWI. Such policies are not only socially unjust but counter-productive in development. **Our main resource is our people.**

We must train them if we are to respond meaningfully to the challenges of the 1990's and beyond.

Our immediate objectives will therefore be to promote the following:

1. Ensure a primary system with high standards of functional literacy and numeracy for all pupils.
2. Allocate more resources to remedial and diagnostic work and upgrade the skills of resource persons in these areas.
3. Make adequate provision within the school system for the development of exceptionally talented students.
4. Ensure greater articulation between the primary, secondary and tertiary sector of education.
5. Reorganise continuing and adult education, in consultation with interested groups such as the unemployed, the workers' and employers' organisations, in order to enhance job opportunities for the unemployed.
6. Reorganise the National Curriculum Development Council (NCDC) and to make it a more effective tool in ensuring the relevance of our formal and continuing education programmes to the changing training and development needs of the 1990's and beyond.
7. Explore how the UWI can contribute more towards the realization of our national development goals, while avoiding government control or interference in the affairs of the University.
8. Address the disciplinary and other social problems affecting our schools by providing the resources and policy framework for strengthening the links between the home and the school.
9. Provide retraining for our teachers in areas which will enable them to understand and to handle the social and youth problems of the 90's more effectively.
10. Strengthen programmes related to sport, community outreach and the arts, and to integrate them into the formal educational experiences of all our youth.
11. Ensure that the mass media, particularly TV, are used as instruments for non-formal and



We promised the people in St. Thomas that they would have a **Secondary School** in the Parish. It is now well advanced in construction, as is the new Secondary School at Wotton, Christ Church. New Primary Schools which have been built are the Roland Edwards, Selah, St. Peter; Cuthbert Moore, St. Augustine, St. George; St. Matthias, Christ Church; while schools are under construction at Bayles, St. Philip and St. Mary's in the City of Bridgetown. And, of course, there is the magnificent new Queen's College at Husbands, St. James.

continuing education related to aspects of our social and economic development such as parenting and acquisition of skills to enhance personal business decisions.

12. Detect and eliminate disciplinary problems in the early stages, by encouraging the use of a range of educational media, and expanded provision for guidance counselling as part of a coordinated strategy to improve the achievement, and thus enhance the self esteem of those of our children currently labelled as "under-achievers".
13. Upgrade the equipment and technical capabilities of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic to enhance the level of instruction in engineering and other skills.
14. Complete the plan of providing all secondary schools with computer networks. Further introduce the use of the computer in primary schools as an additional tool in the area of remedial education.
15. Continue the task of upgrading the school plants to provide more congenial surroundings for teaching and learning.

Our education policy is geared to the development of our people, especially the disadvantaged. A VOTE

FOR THE DLP IS A SURE MEANS OF ENSURING YOUR CHILDREN'S PRESENT AND FUTURE.

Culture

"A NATION WITHOUT REGARD FOR ITS CULTURE IS A NATION WITHOUT RESPECT"

A cultural renaissance has been taking place in Barbados during the last four and one half years. A tremendous flowering of the performing arts has been unfolding. The National Independence Festival of the Creative Arts (NIFCA), Crop Over Festival, and other cultural activities have expanded substantially during the 1980's, but particularly since 1986. The Democratic Labour Party Government immediately on resuming office in 1986, brought to an end the bickering between artists and the NIFCA management which was a recurring feature of the festival during 1976 to 1986.

The Democratic Labour Party is conscious of the pivotal role of culture in national development. Its commitment to the SHERBOURNE CENTRE is ample testimony of the Party's appreciation of the invaluable contribution of cultural development to the building of national self confidence, our industry and economy, and advancement of good international relations.

A DLP Government will implement measures to achieve the following:

- establishment of a **school of the performing arts**, with the emphasis on MUSIC, DANCE, STAGE CRAFT, LIGHTING, and SOUND;
- establishment of a **national art gallery** to support a rapidly growing visual arts;
- promotion of culture as an instrument of foreign policy, by encouraging cultural exchanges;
- stimulate development of the culinary arts, particularly cottage industry wines, pickles etc;
- reduction of the cost of printing paper, to stimulate the growth of photography;
- organisation of workshops to train trainers in the skills of writing, in order to revitalize the literary arts;
- establishment of a publishing house;
- train a corps of persons in television production;
- utilization of the Empire theatre as a venue for the performing arts;
- development of a national orchestra, including the training of young musicians as a matter of urgent priority. This programme will be based at the Sherbourne Centre.
- development of a folk music programme.

Sport

The Democratic Labour Party recognises the important role which sport has played and continues to perform in binding Barbadian and Caribbean peoples together. The Party, conscious of the importance of sporting activities in building character, providing a healthy outlet for competition, developing positive attitudes to cooperation, and offering lucrative careers to our talented and disciplined sons and daughters proposes to:

- continue our programme of play parks and playground development;
- ensure that each school child, except those medically exempt, participate in some form of individual or team sport on a regular basis;
- establish a comprehensive programme for the training and supply of coaches and physical education instructors;
- assist and encourage the national cricket body to establish an international cricket school;
- provide resources to upgrade the standard of coaching in football;
- provide assistance to sporting organisations;



Sport-Tourism continues to be an important source of visitors. The current International Surf-board Classic taking place at Silver Sands, Christ Church, attracted some 500 visitors including competitors, their friends and supporters, and news media including two international T.V. crews.

remove or reduce the duty on sports goods and equipment;

establish a national hall of fame where outstanding national sportswomen and sportsmen of the past, present and future will be inducted.

Health

A daunting task confronted the Democratic Labour Party Government in 1986. The entire health sector was suffering from low morale caused by neglect and unnecessary political battering at the hands of an uncaring administration. Since 1986 the DLP Government has successfully reversed these adverse trends.

The DLP has restarted and intensified both local and overseas training programmes for health professionals, particularly nurses. A large number of appointments and promotions have been made, and training leave has been restored. A stipend has been provided to student nurses, and the GERIATRIC HOSPITAL has been transformed from an eyesore to a modern facility to provide the highest level of accommodation and care for those who live there,

and a congenial environment for all employees. The polyclinic services have been strengthened and integrated with an upgraded QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL. Family life education programmes have been expanded and restructured to enhance their effectiveness, and confrontation with the health sector workers has been replaced by collaboration. The refurbishing of the ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL is near completion and will shortly provide a complete range of MEDICAL, SURGICAL, PAEDIATRIC, OBSTETRIC, and GYNAECOLOGY and ACCIDENT and EMERGENCY services.

The DLP's health policy is informed by its philosophy that the right to health care is a fundamental human right without which none of the other rights guaranteed under the CONSTITUTION can be attained. A DLP Government will, over the next five years, continue to develop a comprehensive health care system to meet the varied needs of our population, and to ensure that high quality health care is available to every Barbadian. Continued development of the private health sector will be encouraged, and the relationship which now exists, will continue to be fostered through constructive dialogue.

The following specific programmes will represent the core of the DLP's thrust:

Community Health Care

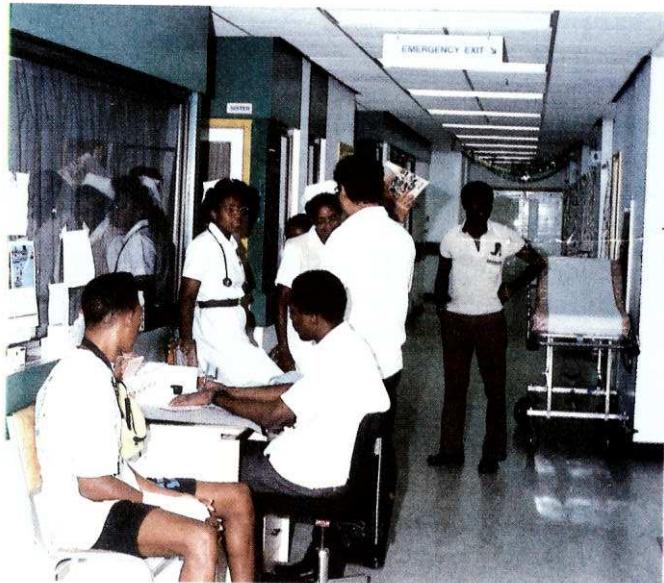
1. Construction of new polyclinics at Horse Hill, St. Joseph; Belleplaine, St. Andrew; and Holentown, St. James.

Acute Care Services

2. Continued upgrading of the physical facilities of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, paying particular attention to the wards.
3. Enhancement of specialised diagnostic capabilities of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, including establishment of an angiographic suite.
4. Installation of a modern information management system.

Care Of The Elderly

5. Upgrading and expansion of the St. Philip Hospital.
6. Provide GROUP HOMES and Half Way Houses to replace the hospitals at Christ Church, St. Thomas and St. Lucy.
7. Continued support for programmes to keep the ELDERLY in their communities as long as possible.



The new Emergency and Casualty Wing at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. For the first time this Wing has personnel who are specifically trained in this aspect of health care. Incoming patients are now categorised so that the most urgent cases are treated first.

Mental Health

8. Strengthening the polyclinic-based community approach to Mental Health Care.
9. Provision of resources to support and expand the half-way house rehabilitation centres.

The Drug Service

10. Expansion of the Drug Service to include free drugs for persons suffering from GLAUCOMA, and MENTAL ILLNESSES.
11. Increase the emphasis placed on Oral Health Care.
12. Expansion of the automated management information system, to further improve the cost effectiveness of the drug service.

Environmental Health

13. Implementation of a Solid Waste Management system.
14. Continue to protect our ground water supply.
15. Establish the South and West Coast Sewerage Systems.
16. Provide a comprehensive integrated system for Health Care delivery for the disabled. Construction of a new Orthopaedic Workshop has already begun.

Social Security

The DLP has brought order to the chaos which it inherited in the social security system originally established by the DLP in 1967. On our return to office in 1986 we found an incredible level of disarray and lack of accountability.

1. Between 1980 and 1986 the department was unable to satisfy the AUDITOR GENERAL'S department about its financial transactions.
2. There was a high level of non-compliance.
3. There was scant knowledge about employers indebted to the Scheme.
4. Benefits claimants experienced long delays and much frustration in receiving their benefits.
5. The department was starved of trained manpower.
6. There was a surprising absence of checks and balances.
7. The BLP Government was raiding the NIS Fund by borrowing long term money from the Fund under the guise of Treasury Bills and paying between 3.5 and 4.5% when the Fund should have been receiving about 8.0 to 9.0%.

During the last four years the DLP has put an end to these undesirable practices, and weaknesses which threatened to destroy our Social Security Scheme. Further the DLP has set the Scheme on a path to meet the challenges of the twenty first century. **THE DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY PROVIDED FOR TAX FREE PENSIONS IN 1986 AND WE FULLY INTEND TO PROTECT THE TAX FREE STATUS AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF ALL PENSIONERS.**

In 1990 the Democratic Labour Party Government concluded an agreement with the UNITED KINGDOM Government to provide for BARBADIANS RETURNING HOME FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO RECEIVE PENSION BENEFITS AND COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE RECEIVED BY PENSIONERS RESIDING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. THIS AGREEMENT TAKES EFFECT FROM APRIL 1991. DURING THE SECOND PHASE OF DISCUSSIONS OTHER RECIPROCAL BENEFITS, WHICH WILL SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVE THE LOT OF RETURNING PENSIONERS, ARE BEING NEGOTIATED.

In order to ensure that our people do not suffer unnecessary loss of purchasing power due to Retirement, Sickness, Unemployment, Injury, Maternity, Redundancy or Invalidity, the DLP commits itself to strengthening the Social Security System through the following ways:

1. Pursuit of prudent investment strategies.
2. Upgrading of management systems.
3. Intensification of staff training programmes.
4. Allocation of more resources to public education programmes.
5. Strengthening the compliance capability of the NIS.
6. Adjustments of pensions to compensate for cost of living increases, and to permit the sharing in real economic growth.

Personal Social Services

These services are intended to support vulnerable individuals and groups (including the Elderly, the Poor, the Physically disabled, Children, the Mentally disabled). A DLP government intends to strengthen these services in the following ways:

1. Rationalize the provision of existing services with a view to increasing their effectiveness.
2. Upgrade the skills of those workers responsible for caring the elderly within their communities.
3. Encourage greater community and voluntary input in the provision of assistance to these vulnerable groups.
4. Undertake a comprehensive review of the Charities Act in order to encourage the growth of charitable organisations.
5. Improve family support services by establishing a NATIONAL COUNSELLING SERVICE under a restructured family services section in the WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

The Elderly

The elderly population has grown rapidly. In 1987 the ratio of pensioners to the working population was 13.2%. It is projected that by the year 2012 that ratio will be 25.2%. This group has specific needs which must not be neglected. The DLP Government is committed to ensuring that the elderly enjoy a satisfactory standard of living and will do the following in this regard:

1. Expand the social and recreational services provided by the National Assistance Board (NAB).
2. Expand the Housing Welfare Programme.
3. Accelerate expansion of services provided by the National Assistance Board to the elderly.



Government has expanded the level of available social services through the provision of facilities like this beautifully designed multi-purpose Community Centre and playground at Bush Hall and the one at Waterford. Meanwhile renovations to the Community Centres at Gall Hill, St. John, Belleplaine, St. Andrew and Grazettes, St. Michael were also completed.

4. Expand the "Home Help Service" to rural communities.
5. Explore the possibility of expanding the "meals on wheels service" in collaboration with voluntary agencies.
6. Provide support for agencies such as the National Council on Aging.
7. Restructure the Welfare Department into a Social Services department, placing greater emphasis upon Counselling and Guidance.

Physically Handicapped

The DLP recognises that the physically disabled require assistance not pity. A DLP Government is committed to enabling the disabled to lead full and useful lives, and intends to do the following during the next five years:

1. Amend all legislation which discriminates against physically handicapped persons.
2. Provide improved social assistance grants to facilitate acquisition of specialised equipment and aids.
3. Modify existing public facilities to cater to the needs of the disabled, and ensure that all

newly constructed public facilities are equipped with facilities to cater to the special needs of this group of persons.

4. Increase provision of day care facilities for the handicapped.
5. Expand the "Home Help Service" to cater to the needs of the disabled.
6. Consult with bodies which represent the interests of this group of persons prior to taking decisions on matters which affect this group of persons.

Mentally Handicapped

A DLP Government intends to improve the lot of the mentally disabled in the following ways;

1. Enhanced collaboration with the voluntary agencies which provide for the care and education of these persons.
2. Provide sheltered workshops to teach skills to the handicapped, and for members to practise their crafts.
3. Establish liaison services to ensure access to school places.

Children

Considering that;

1. The children of Barbados have the potential to fulfil this nation's hopes and aspirations;
2. They are our major resource and therefore the key to national development. The children of Barbados should therefore have every opportunity to attain adequate growth and development in their spiritual and social lives from infancy, through young adulthood;
3. Growth and development is their right, and that this right must be fully respected by every Barbadian.

Families as well as the wider community must therefore always be cognizant of their responsibilities and obligations towards our children.

The Democratic Labour Party will continue to develop and support this precious resource through ensuring that:

1. Adequate care and protection of children are provided.
2. Family units and linkages are maintained where possible.

3. Broad-based community family and youth organisations are strengthened.
4. An environment conducive to the full development of our children is provided.
5. Update all legislation related to the care and protection of children.

Women

The women of Barbados know which political party has done most to improve their standard and quality of life. They know that the DLP:

Implemented equal pay for equal work in the Government service;

Introduced maternity and sickness benefits under the National Insurance Scheme in 1967, and rescued these benefits in 1987;

Created large numbers of job opportunities in service and light manufacturing industries in congenial conditions.

Passed the Succession Act, enabling partners and children of Common Law relationships to inherit property.

Introduced the Domestic Violence Act;

Passed the Sexual Offences Act;

Enacted legislation to protect children against pornography and other sexual offences;

Provided for paid leave passages for female employees in the public service and their spouses.

The Party promises to:

Encourage management in the agricultural sectors to provide additional amenities for all plantation agricultural workers;

Provide temporary homes for battered women;

Provide psychological counselling for victims of sexual and physical abuse;

Provide for recipients of child support and alimony to receive their payments through the postal services;

Provide for interest penalties on overdue alimony and child support payments.

Youth

"Institutions and especially economic systems, have a profound influence in moulding the characters of men and women. They may encourage adventure and hope, or timidity and the pursuit of safety. They may open men's minds to great possibilities, or close them against everything except the risk of obscure misfortune. They may make a man's happiness depend upon what he adds to the general possessions of the world, or upon what he can secure for himself of the private goods in which others cannot share." - Bertrand Russell. In the years leading up to 1986 the Democratic Labour Party was continually warning the political leaders of that time about the pursuit of policies that were alienating the young and dispossessed. We must not forget that today's youth are the children of the early 1980's and we are today merely reaping some of consequences of that period in our history.

It is the aim of the Democratic Labour Party to pursue policies that promote creativity and self-reliance among our youth. We set our sights on strengthening educational opportunity and delivery of sound health services. We have provided expanded and modern sports facilities and play parks throughout the island. We recognize that something is missing. We do not shove our heads in the sand and wish problems away. We do not blame the majority for the lawless acts of a minority. We do not subscribe to the draconian measures that destroy rather than build character. We carry out a scientific analysis of the situation and then we act. We have concluded that the following considerations are pertinent:

1. The important influence of family on young people has diminished.
2. There is a preponderance of media coverage of negative rather than positive activities by the young.
3. There is considerable frustration among young people who seem alienated from decision-making, have low self esteem, and are often unemployed.
4. Institutions in the society are becoming rigid, and less tolerant and amenable to change.
5. Discipline in our society is declining in response to greater economic prosperity and individualism.

Our response to these social problems is not to confuse the causes with the effects but, to analyze both. The Democratic Labour Party has conceived of, and developed, a programme of Summer Camps throughout Barbados during the Summer Holidays. The programme has been voluntary in nature and it has produced tremendous results. It has thrown up and cultivated Community Leaders and has fostered creativity and skill acquisition by the young people. This programme has been supported by thousands of Barbadians. School buildings which hitherto remained idle during vacation periods are now being put to productive uses.

The Democratic Labour Party has created several play parks for children in their communities, and espe-

cially housing areas, so that they can enjoy leisure time in their own surroundings and interact with one another. These parks have transformed many housing areas into places of beauty. We have restored THE SUBVENTION TO THE BARBADOS YOUTH COUNCIL (after it was taken away by the BLP Government); and have assisted in finding accommodation for it, and have also given support and encouragement to its activities. Plans are well underway for the establishment of a Non-Military Voluntary Youth Service.

We believe that these measures have had and will have, a lasting impact on our youth, and will reverse the tide of neglect and crass indifference that has characterized the 1976 to 1986 era of government. A very important and major development that has been unjustly criticized by our opponents is the SHERBOURNE CENTRE. This centre will be the home of the National Orchestra, and a major showpiece of our national culture. It will also be an Examination Centre, and will have FACILITIES FOR CONFERENCES. One of its important functions is to provide a forum for young people to develop and display their artistic talents, and strengthen our tourism through its impact on the performing arts. It is an investment of which we can be truly proud. It is a fact that a nation which does not recognize the worth of its culture is a nation without respect. Our consolation is that such criticism has always been thrown at the Democratic Labour Party by its opponents. The introduction of SCHOOL MEALS, FREE

SECONDARY EDUCATION and the BARBADOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE WERE CONSIDERED PIPEDREAMS, and each of these has impacted upon our society in ways never imagined.

More than ever before the Democratic Labour Party is committed to putting our youth first, and to promoting an economic system that gives them greater support for initiative and recognizes their involvement in decision making. In short, we stand squarely with those young pioneers who seek economic democracy as a means of achieving greater prosperity and equality.

We are committed to strengthening the family as the basis of the well-being of the society as a whole.

We are committed to building institutions that are creatively encouraging change and renewal and public debate on their effectiveness.

The twenty first century is not the era of the timid and unadventurous, it will be the era of the creative and daring and those in whose hearts hope is always alive.

The Democratic Labour Party's track record sets it apart as the Party most committed to YOUTH. The Democratic Labour Party opened the gates for advancement through education and training to all Barbadian youths. We provided for:

1. A fully taxpayer funded secondary and university education.



It is surprising that the superb facilities which are under construction at the Sherbourne Centre, Two Mile Hill, St. Michael, have been the subject of criticism. There will be a much needed Conference Facility seating 800 persons; an auditorium seating 2,000 persons with full theatre and concert backstage facilities; a Dining Room seating 120 people; a Cafeteria for 300; and an Administration block. It is a project to be proud of!

2. Substantially increased the number of bursaries and introduced National Development Scholarships to enhance the supply of university trained personnel in our society;
3. A taxpayer funded school meal service for infant and primary school children;
3. Enhanced dental and medical facilities for children;
4. Parks and recreation facilities throughout the country;
5. Resources to construct a national gymnasium;
6. A Skills TRAINING programme through the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic;
7. The DLP established the Barbados Community College to provide post secondary training in a wide range of disciplines;
8. Initiated a YOUTH AFFAIRS DIVISION to pay particular attention to youth matters;
9. Enacted legislation to protect young people from sexual exploitation.

The Democratic Labour Party believes that YOUTH need encouragement, guidance, a sympathetic hearing - - not condemnation, retribution and isolation. We are encouraged by the vast numbers of our youth who set goals and work hard to achieve their dreams and pledges to do everything within its power to support our young people. A DLP Government is determined to:

1. Urgently establish a broad based commission to enquire into all aspects of the negative factors impacting upon our youth; and take appropriate corrective action.
2. Provide a permanent headquarters for the national youth body;
3. Increase the subvention to the national youth body to enable it to service a secretariat;
4. Provide leadership training courses for youth leaders;
5. Continue to support summer youth camps;
6. Ensure that the voice of youth is heard in the development of national policies and in the implementation of youth programmes;
7. Provide financial and technical assistance for young entrepreneurs desirous of establishing a business;
8. Improve the physical conditions of the working environment of young people in business.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

The DLP remains committed to the attainment and maintenance of good labour/management relations. We therefore regret the damage which the BLP administration inflicted upon our system of voluntary collective bargaining by invoking legislation to halt negotiations in the public sector. It is our policy to ensure that a harmonious industrial relations climate should prevail, based on adherence to the principles of equity, fairness, natural justice and the display of mutual respect and consideration by trade unions and management in their respective dealings with one another. The DLP GOVERNMENT LEGISLATED TO PROVIDE PENSIONS FOR PERSONS EMPLOYED BY STATUTORY BOARDS, THEREBY ENSURING EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES. Accordingly our policies will ensure that: management and unions each appreciate their respective roles to their constituent members, as well as to the society as a whole.

The separate but complementary initiatives of management and trade unions work in such a way as to result in acceptable gains, through higher productivity for workers as regards their terms and conditions of employment, enhanced profitability for owners and lower prices and better quality goods for consumers.

The DLP does not intend to permit a situation to recur in Barbados in which employers can unscrupulously take harsh unilateral decisions which put workers at a disadvantage and, insist that the latter passively endure the situation through fear and insecurity.

The DLP recognizes the positive role which trade unions have played and continue to play in the social and economic development of Barbados. We therefore commit ourselves to ensuring that the appropriate legal and institutional framework exists to permit both trade unions and management to function responsibly.

The DLP is committed to the enactment of an UNFAIR DISMISSAL ACT TO PROTECT WORKERS AGAINST AN UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYER.

The DLP is committed to the establishment of a TRIBUNAL to adjudicate on industrial disputes in THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

We believe that there should be at every work-place a policy of meaningful consultation before final decisions

are taken that could affect the stability and job security of the work-force.

We will set up a National Productivity Council to review scientific, technological and managerial progress, with a view to arriving at a more effective way of increasing employment and productivity. The main functions of the Council will be:

1. Investigation of the applicability of advances in Science and Technology to areas of national economic endeavour.
2. Measurement of productivity.
3. Management guidance.
4. Provision of counselling to business concerns and public sector bodies, paying particular attention to human resources development.

The Council will comprise representatives of the trade unions, private sector, and the public sector.

A DLP Government will introduce legislation to ensure that management provides certain basic information to representatives of the workers pertaining to the finance and operations aspects of a business prior to the start of contract negotiations.

A DLP Government will continue to support the training programmes of trade unions in order to ensure good labour management relations.

Cooperatives

An Exciting Story

In 1986 the DLP set out a programme for COOPERATIVES development, and we have honoured all of our promises. We enacted a CHARTER to take COOPERATIVES into the 21st century and beyond -- the COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES ACT 1990. Credit unions have made great progress during the last four and half years. At March 31st 1986 CREDIT UNIONS had a total membership of 20,871 and \$36,185,328 in shares and deposits, and at March 1990 the corresponding total membership was 37,586, and shares and deposits was \$125,349,845.

The DLP is aware that much more can be achieved through the COOPERATIVES MOVEMENT, and is committed to the following:

implementation of measures to further stimulate savings within the MOVEMENT;

enact legislation to provide for a STABILIZATION MECHANISM after full consultation with the MOVEMENT;

introduce measures to encourage CREDIT UN-

IONS to put more resources into directly productive activities;

introduce fiscal incentives to revitalize WORKERS', HOUSING, and CONSUMER COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

upgrade management training in collaboration with the primary and secondary societies.

Community Development

The DLP is unwaveringly committed to doing everything in its power to improve the quality of life for all Barbadians. In recent times the incidence of crime has been threatening the peace and stability of our island home. A DLP Government is prepared to get to the root of the problem and deal with its causes as a matter of the greatest urgency. During the last four and one half years Barbadians have not been afraid to express their point of view. This is in sharp contrast with the period 1976 to 1986. The DLP philosophy of "consensus government" has contributed in significant measure to this flowering of expression. A DLP Government is committed to encouragement of personal and community initiatives, and will therefore seek to:

- foster the establishment of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS on an island wide basis;
- provide enhanced levels of resources for training community workers;
- assist in planning programmes for persons of all age groups;
- continue financial assistance to community groups;
- upgrade community centres and provide a management facility which will ensure that the facilities will be fully utilized for the purposes for which they are intended;
- provide training for community choirs;

THE INFRASTRUCTURAL PROGRAMME

Housing

A DLP Government intends to consolidate and expand upon the innovative housing policies which it set in place in 1986, and by the end of 1989 had established an all-time record for housing starts. We aim to continue



The year 1989 was another very productive year for the National Housing Corporation. 186 masonry houses, 30 timber houses and 12 Terrace Units were completed, while 196 masonry houses were under construction. In addition 84 houses were completed and another 34 under construction in joint ventures with foreign companies.

to pursue policies which facilitate home ownership and propose through economic policies geared towards the re-energising of the export sector to secure the following:

1. Enhance the environment for private initiative in residential construction.
2. Continue to control mortgage interest rates at a level that is equitable to homeowners and mortgage companies.
3. Introduce a graduated mortgage payment scheme.
4. Arrange for the provision of thirty year mortgages.
5. Stimulate the growth of a secondary mortgage market.
6. Provide attractive fiscal incentives to housing cooperatives.
7. Improve access to housing by persons in the lower income bracket through the following:
 - (a) provision of direct technical assistance;
 - (b) introduction of lease purchase arrangements;
 - (c) reduce down payments and control "soft costs";
 - (d) allocate more NHC resources to providing serviced lots for sale and rental;

- (e) further encourage NHC tenants to purchase their units at concessionary rates;
- (f) establish a mechanism to control the sale of residential land to citizens of Non-CARICOM member countries.
- (g) offer a rebate (waiver of duties) to, developers who build a proportion of low income houses in any development.
- (h) provide five hundred house spots in the first year of a new DLP Government.
- (i) build two (2) blocks of multi-family units.
- (j) provide the well with the house spot when the spot is sold or rented.

Urban Renewal

The next DLP Government will continue the Party's programme of development and beautification of the residential areas within the limits of the City of Bridgetown, in keeping with its status as the capital city of our country. To facilitate the next stage of this development programme, and to ensure the best use of the available resources, the next DLP Government will:

1. Commission a study of certain aspects of these residential areas, including the demand for adequate housing, the availability of community development personnel and facilities, road construction, land use, sewage disposal and drainage.
2. Facilitate and accelerate the further development of such commercial areas as Baxters Road and Nelson Street and their environs, through the establishment of an URBAN RENEWAL COUNCIL. The Council will comprise representatives of the public and private sectors (including small proprietors).

Its main task will be to consider and recommend to Government the most effective ways of maintaining the traditional atmospheres of these and other sectors of Bridgetown, while making maximum use of their potential for commercial activity for the remainder of this decade and into the twenty-first century.

Roads and Drainage

Paving the Way To The Twenty-First Century

During the last four and one half years the DLP Government developed a programme of works to improve the road network, and drainage. The policy involved

the reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways, the systematic resurfacing of existing parish and residential roads, the construction of tenantry and subsidiary roads, and highway safety improvements along highways and at junctions, including the provision of sidewalks, pedestrian activity, traffic lights and roundabouts.

Under a programme jointly financed by the World Bank and Government approximately sixty five (65) kilometers of roadway was rehabilitated and several highway improvements were undertaken. The programme involved acquisition of approximately \$2,000,000 worth in equipment and the provision of technical assistance and training in the areas of mechanical workshop and equipment management, transport planning, traffic engineering, soils and materials testing and highway maintenance management.

The Ministry of Transport and Works commenced a paving programme in May 1988 aimed at the systematic paving of all roads in Barbados. The programme started in St. Michael and has been extended to St. George, St. James, Christ Church and St. Philip. During the past two and one half years hundreds of roads within these parishes have been paved. A DLP Government is committed to continue this programme to cover the entire island.

Drainage

During the last four and one half years Government executed the following drainage projects:

1. canalization at Bank Hall
2. recommencement of the Speightstown drainage project
3. construction of drains
 - (a) St. Catherine, St. Philip
 - (b) Hothersal Turning, St. Michael
 - (c) St. Davids, Christ Church
 - (d) Parish Land, St. Philip
 - (e) Ashton Hall, St. Peter
 - (f) Crawford Road, St. Peter

In addition, hundreds of wells have been sunk and cleaned. A DLP Government will seek to reduce the effects of flooding, and to this end a comprehensive drainage project which will resolve outstanding drainage problems is being finalized.

Beautification of Bridgetown

The DLP attaches great importance to the environmental enhancement of Bridgetown. The next DLP Government will complete the following projects:

- (a) Parliament buildings courtyard and their immediate environs;
- (b) restoration of Jubilee Gardens;
- (c) redevelopment of the Princess Alice Omnibus terminal;
- (d) independence square;
- (e) the waterfront development project;

Vendors Malls

The DLP Government recognizes the need to promote small business development and commits itself to the following projects:

- (a) the Swan Street Mall;
- (b) the redevelopment of the Cheapside/Temple Yard market complex;
- (c) the provision of three selected areas off the ABC Highway for vending activities;

The markets/vendors' outlets will be well appointed, well regulated and will provide adequate amenities, including toilet facilities.

Transportation

The next DLP Government proposes to continue to develop the public transportation system so that it will provide a frequent, reliable, safe and efficient top-quality service to the people of Barbados. We hold the view that Government should continue to play the leading role in the provision of this service, **but we recognize the critical role performed by the minibuses which are providing supplementary services.**

During the past four and one half years the DLP Government strengthened the public transportation system by implementation of the following measures:

- (a) provision of better terminal facilities at the Constitution River bus stand and Probys Street;
- (b) the improvement of the road network;
- (c) comprehensive management training of the Transport Board staff;
- (d) upgrading of the Transport Board's public relations;
- (e) commencement of work on a mechanical workshop at the Speightstown terminal;
- (f) 50% reduction of the taxes and fees paid by minibuses and taxis;
- (g) provision for standing passengers on minibuses;

- (h) the increase in taxi fares;
- (i) the purchase of fifty (50) additional buses for the Transport Board;
- (j) the increase from four (4) to twelve (12) the number of Transport Inspectors at the Licensing Authority;

During the next five years a DLP Government proposes to implement the following projects:

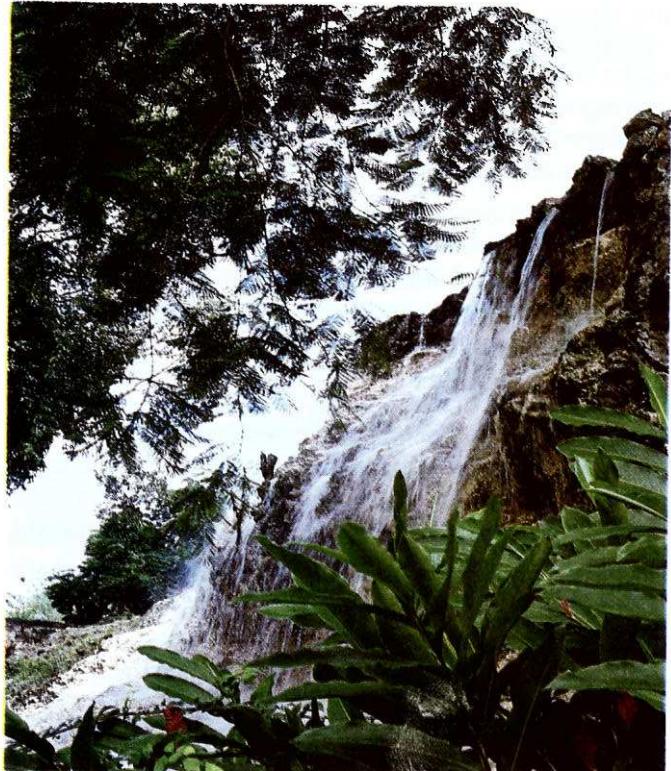
1. construction of new headquarters for the Transport Board at Kendall Hill, Christ Church;
2. redevelopment of the Princess Alice terminal to incorporate the activities of the Jubilee Gardens terminal;
3. improvement of the facilities at Mangrove;
4. extension of the Fairchild Street terminal;
5. improvement of the Haggatts facility;
6. purchase of additional omnibuses/chassis for the Transport Board;
7. relocation and upgrading of the Temple Yard minibus terminal;
8. a comprehensive review of the existing traffic legislation will be undertaken;

A DLP Government will undertake through the services of consultants a study to determine the most judicious mix of public transportation modes to meet the present and future passenger transport demands.

Environment

The Democratic Labour Party will continue to be in the vanguard of the national effort to protect, conserve and manage the environmental resource base of Barbados. To this end we will do the following:

1. Establish a Department of the Environment suitably staffed and equipped to supervise, coordinate and execute Government's policies and programmes to enhance and protect the environment.
2. Conduct a continuous review of existing legislation and standards, with a view to their updating and upgrading to support socio-economic development.
3. Establish a network of protected areas. The Folkstone Marine Reserve will form the core of this network. Other areas to be included are Turner's Hall Woods, Joes River Forest, Graeme Hall Swamp and numerous areas of natural beauty throughout the island.



The National Conservation Commission has been doing a wonderful job at parks, beaches and roundabouts. The beautification of the grounds of the property at Black Rock which is known as the Lazaretto is admired every day by people who use Highway One.

4. Establish the East Coast National Park.
5. Implement a comprehensive solid waste management programme and continue to protect our ground water supply.
6. Institute programmes aimed at strengthening land use planning in Barbados, placing particular emphasis upon the protection of our cultural and historic resources and zoning for industries using hazardous substances.
7. Initiate disaster mitigation and preparedness programmes paying particular attention to the importation, use, and disposal of hazardous substances; oil and chemical spills contingencies; measures aimed at minimizing flooding.
8. Organise urban renewal and enhancement programmes paying particular attention to Speightstown, Oistins and Bridgetown.
9. Liaise with Non-Governmental Organisations on planned environmental programmes and projects.

THE NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMME

The fundamental objective of the Democratic Labour Party's national security programme is to preserve the national security of the people of Barbados at all times. This means, above all else consolidating our national independence and sovereignty; preserving our national values; protecting our national territory from foreign incursions, and maintaining a strong regime of internal law and order. The search for economic development, the pursuit of peace, and the continuance of an effective foreign policy to achieve these ends, including forging alliances and ties of friendship with neighbouring and more distant countries through such mechanisms as mutual understandings, treaties, cooperation, and integration.

The Democratic Labour Party, above all others, is the most tested and trustworthy party to achieve those objectives for the people of Barbados. We are the fathers of Independence, and are therefore best placed to protect and consolidate, that independence. We boldly grasped the reigns of sovereignty in 1966 for our motherland, thereby giving to our sons and daughters, to our adults and senior citizens hope, purpose and meaning to life in today's world as proud, self-confident, and competent citizens.

We are building a nation, and we must continue to do so on the basis of our values of freedom, democracy, respect for human dignity and human rights, pride, discipline, honesty, generosity, kindness, courtesy, tolerance, humility, love, understanding, peace, and the acknowledgement of God as our Supreme.

A Capable Defence Force

The cold war rivalry between the two super-powers has abated. But small countries like Barbados are still exposed to many dangerous threats. Subverters and saboteurs, terrorists and insurrectionists, adventurists, drug traffickers and smugglers still abound, and would seek to create conditions of destabilization and instability for their own ends. We must therefore be constantly on guard. Barbados can only achieve its goals of peace, development and democracy in conditions of stability, which in turn requires adequate security and defence arrangements.

But we must also be on guard against hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters which occur from time to time. In addition there are man-made disasters such as oil pollution, toxic waste damage, aircraft accidents, and environmental degradation and abuse of the land and sea.

Barbados needs a corps of alert, well-trained, highly motivated people as a centre of discipline in our national life. Just as we recognized this need in the 1970's and responded by creating the Coast Guard, and preparing a draft White Paper for the restructuring of our forces, so too we now state our proposals for the Barbados Defence Force for the 1990's and beyond.

In broad terms we will support and maintain the Barbados Defence Force as an effective, highly trained and disciplined permanent body of men and women for the purpose of:

Providing a line of defence against aggression and incursions from abroad by groups or individuals or otherwise;

maintaining surveillance of our coastline and surrounding waters;

safeguarding the sovereignty and independence of Barbados, including our national institutions; and aiding the civil power in cases of internal subversion, the maintenance of law and order, and national emergencies.

Specifically the Democratic Labour Party Government will:

1. Revise the Defence Act to set out explicitly the mission, role and duties of the Force, to make the Act more self-contained by detaching it from related legislation in the U.K. and to reform it in other ways;
2. Develop the BDF as a single service made up of the different units, containing both regulars and reserves, but with centralized administrative support and other services;
3. Increase the strength, capability and resources of the Force so that it can better carry out its mission and operations;
4. Implement a programme of military reform based on a more effective process of delegation within the Force, a greater measure of staff coordination, and a greater measure of responsibility to the officers heading the various units such as the Coast Guard, the Barbados Regiment and the Cadets;
5. Improve the career prospects, the training opportunities, and the counselling and welfare services available to all ranks;

6. Strengthen the capabilities of the Force in the areas of intelligence and security information gathering;
7. Maintain the Coast Guard as an integral part of the BDF, dedicated among other things, to enforcement of the law as relating to fisheries, territorial waters and the economic zone, drug interdiction, safety at sea, quarantine and prevention of breaches of revenue and customs legislation.
8. Upgrade the Coast Guard through the phased replacement of its aging vessels, and through the provision of additional electronic communications and radar equipment;
9. Enhance the roles of the Barbados Regiment, the Cadets and the Reserves as important elements within the total Force and not as mere adjuncts to the Regular Force. The training of these elements will be enhanced;
10. Improve the resources and training of the Commando Squadron;
11. Strengthen the capabilities of the BDF in the areas of construction and maintenance of facilities, equipment and vehicles;
12. Provide additional resources for the Medical Services and the Administrative Support Unit;
13. Develop the BDF as a main centre for the delivery of a National Sports Development Programme. Under this programme unemployed promising young athletes will be encouraged to join the BDF where their main specialization will be in their sports discipline;
14. Improve public awareness of the very important roles and responsibilities of the BDF, through its public relations arm and through its social and community activities.

Mutual Security Co-operation

Recent events in neighbouring countries highlight how dependent the territories of the Caribbean are upon one another in terms of dealing with national emergencies as well as natural disasters. The territories of the Caribbean must therefore work more closely with one another to deepen and extend the Regional Security System. The threats faced by any one territory may also be threats to other territories.

The Democratic Labour Party will work for greater cooperation within CARICOM in regional security matters through an expanded Regional Security System;

The Party will also seek to bring about greater

coordination between CARICOM countries and friendly governments in the wider region.

Law and Order

THE DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY FULLY SUPPORTS LAW AND ORDER RECOGNISING THAT WHERE LAW AND ORDER BREAKS DOWN, ANARCHY REIGNS AND CIVILISED SOCIETY BECOMES EXTINCT.

The Democratic Labour Party has from its formation recognised the need for, and ensured the priority and importance of law and order as a prerequisite for the orderly development of Barbadian society. We have consistently, by our policies, supported those institutions charged with the responsibility of preserving and maintaining law and order.

Law and order forms the foundation on which civilisation itself is built, and depends for its strength on the cooperative and collaborative function of the executive, the legislature, the judiciary, police, prison and probation services.

The Party, conscious that the greatest threat to law and order is to be found in certain antisocial behaviour, manifested in rising crime and other acts of lawlessness, has outlined a number of policies and strategies in a programme of action designed to combat the inflow of illicit drugs into the island and prevent serious crimes.

These policies should, through our system of law enforcement, justice and administrative procedure, be based on **principles that will guarantee equality of everyone before the law without discrimination, an effective right of defence, and a process providing for fair and expeditious disposition of trial.**

Our policies further demonstrate our respect for, and observance of, the independence of the judiciary and other institutions in the justice system -- police, prison, and probation services in carrying out their functions free of political or other outside interference. The Party has consistently supported those institutions and officers charged with the responsibility of the enforcement and administration of the civil and criminal justice system, by making available resources human and physical to ensure the ability of performing their respective duty in surroundings, and in a manner conducive to the highest standard of performance.

In keeping with its pledge for fair and equal treatment before the courts, a DLP Government will undertake the following:

1. Expand its legal aid service to provide this service for the many poor and indigent per-

sons who become parties to legal suits and are unable to exercise their rights, because of their poverty.

2. Enact legislation to simplify the process by which many of the victims of crime who have suffered economic loss, physical or mental injury, and emotional suffering, but who do not receive any monetary redress because of our present system. These victims may seek restitution, compensation and other assistance from the offender where known, or the State.
3. After consultation with the Judicial Committee and Bar Association, seek to have evidence pertaining to rape and child victims of crime taken *in camera*, thus alleviating the trauma, emotional distress, and other hurt suffered by these persons when giving evidence in courts.
4. Concerned with the number of young persons being given custodial sentences at Glendairy Prison, where they meet and associate with hardened criminals from whom they learn more about crime as seen by the high incidence of repeat offenders, the Party will:
Reform our Penal System, in consultation with the appropriate bodies,
Provide a correctional centre for housing young offenders.
Allow for alternative sentencing in our judicial system for young offenders
 - (a) Suspended sentences
 - (b) Night custody only, allowing for work to support family.
 - (c) Community-based Service.
 - (d) Probation
 - (e) Order for Continuing Education.
 - (f) Order for Skills Training
 - (g) Order for Restitution, Compensation.
 - (h) Order for Medical/Psychiatric Treatment.
 - (i) Parole.
 - (j) Substantial bond (Real Property) for discretionary period.
5. The Party will extend the concept of non-formal treatment of child offenders by having all offences other than murder, manslaughter, and treason, determined by a board comprising an education officer, a probation officer and a youth liaison officer of the Police Force.

Sanctions

Attendance at school; church; restriction to home; involvement in team sports; report to an education officer.

Judiciary

The Party carried out a programme to refurbish and furnish the existing Courts, Registry and offices, as a temporary measure.

Preliminary work has been completed and construction of the new Judicial Centre at Country Road will soon begin. This will house the new Appeal Court, the Registry, Central Magistrates and allied offices, with modern technological aids to expedite the work of the judiciary court process.

On-going negotiations are continuing with a view to providing offices for this department, aimed at improving their efficiency.

6. A DLP Government will review the function of magistrates early in the new term to rationalise their jurisdiction toward more centralisation, having regard to the extended and interlocking services being offered by our transport system.

Police

This service provides the climate in which our judicial system functions and society resides. They are the front line defenders of our democracy, and it is to them that society looks mainly for the protection of law and order, and the preservation of the peace. Ever conscious of this, the Democratic Labour Party has always sought to provide them with the resources needed (human and otherwise) and favourably addressed their welfare concerns, so that they may effectively discharge their responsibility.

During this term of office we built:

- (a) the St. Cecelia Band Complex;
- (b) the airport Station;
- (c) commenced construction of the Holentown Complex, which includes a new police station and magistrates court.
- (d) We have carried out extensive repairs, including additions, replacement of complete roofs and installation of air conditioning units and other utilities. Some of these stations renovated are:
Central Police Station barracks and offices

District Stations "A", "B", "C", "E", "F". Oistins, Hastings, Holetown, and Crab Hill.

- (e) Refrigerators and television sets were provided along with general furniture.
- (f) Additional men and vehicles were provided.

7. A DLP Government will:

- (a) continue to increase the number of men and women to a strength of fourteen hundred (1400);
- (b) provide vehicles and other equipment, including computer facilities for the identification section.
- (c) continue to provide training for all ranks locally and abroad, with the emphasis being on crime and drug prevention and detection.
- (d) seek to redefine the District Stations boundaries and site the new, modern and upgraded District "D" Police Station to give coverage to areas of St. Joseph, St. John, St. George and the parish of St. Thomas.
- (e) upgrade the regional Police Centre to a Police College to serve the Eastern Caribbean, and include a **FORENSIC LABORATORY** and training in areas of **Forensic Science** applicable to the work of the police.
- (f) establish an independent Police Complaints Body to hear serious complaints from aggrieved members of the public concerning alleged wrong doing on the part of a police officer. The procedure will be that the complainant would first make the complaint to the police through the customary channels. If the matter is not settled satisfactorily and there is residual dissatisfaction, the complainant may take the matter to the Complaints Body for further investigation.

Prisons

- 8. We are committed to improving the physical structure to accommodate improved staff and inmate facilities.
- 9. Provide for more individual supervision and counselling.

- 10. Place greater emphasis on rehabilitation through a formal system of education leading to some vocation or skill by those who can benefit from it.

Probation Service

- 11. The DLP will, early in its new term, reorganise this department, providing training and technological aids so as to bring it more into the system, so as to play a more effective role in assisting the courts, victims, accused and their families.

Training

- 12. The DLP will continue to encourage and support training in all areas of law enforcement and criminal justice administration.

Crime

The DLP notes with concern the current increase in crime, in particular trafficking and abuse of drugs and crimes of violence, involving the use of firearms and knives. Based on available statistics, it would seem that the crimes are committed by young men who engage in lawless activities and use the loot from these robberies, breakings and larcenies to support drug and gambling habits.

Historically our statistics on local crime clearly demonstrate patterns of fluctuation, but from the 1980's onwards, with the liberalisation of our gambling laws, permitting one-arm bandits and instant lottery games, we began to experience marked increases in the reported number of robberies, larcenies and house breakings. As the phenomenon of drug trafficking and drug abuse engulfed us around 1983, we began to experience more violence among our youth, and open assaults on visitors and locals alike.

This development is not unique to our situation, for in Europe, the United States of America, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and other countries of the region, crimes against the person and property, often accompanied by violence, showed alarming increases. This was the subject of much concern at the recently concluded Congress of the United Nations, held in Cuba. The trafficking and abuse of drugs continue to plague this society, with our young people being the victims of addiction, forcing them into crimes to support their habits.

Government programmes over the past four years have met with moderate success in detection

and seizure of significant quantities of marijuana and cocaine. We have introduced, and passed into law, two pieces of legislation which are vital to the control and eradication of illegal drugs and prevention of serious crimes. These laws are titled THE NARCOTICS ACT, and THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT. These two acts give increased powers to the Police and Courts to control crime and illicit drugs.

Measures Taken by The DLP Government to Deal with Crime

1. Regulations to control activities of jet skis, wave runners and other fast moving water-craft.
2. The police establishment has been increased and will be further increased as the country's resources permit.
3. Civilians have replaced policemen who were performing non-police duties, releasing policemen for regular police duties.
4. Neighbourhood Watch and Resident Beat Officer Programmes have been established in many districts.
5. The Juvenile Liaison Scheme has been strengthened to deal with juvenile delinquency.
6. Increased police patrols and presence have been established in high crime areas.
7. The Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Bill recently introduced is designed to deal with domestic violence.
13. A DLP Government is committed to eradicating the scourge of drugs and will continue in cooperation and collaboration with other countries, international and regional agencies and non-governmental organisations to vigorously implement policies and strategies to achieve its goal.

The DLP is committed to:

- (a) Removing the supply of drugs by providing the resources and training to the relevant enforcement agencies, i.e. Police, Customs, Immigration, Postal Officers and the Coast Guard.
- (b) Removing the demand for the drugs by education, public awareness programmes and participation in anti-drug campaigns by employers' and workers' organisations, service clubs and other voluntary organisations.
- (c) Providing at appropriate government

facilities (St. Joseph Hospital) a well structured programme for treatment and counselling towards rehabilitation;

14. We are prepared and committed to a review of the entire Criminal Justice System with a view to formalising a holistic policy based on sound sociological and criminological principles.
15. To provide also the legislative framework for a comprehensive Criminal Justice Bill.
16. The Marine Division of the Force will be re-established to assist in policing and safe-guarding the close-to-shore areas of our coastline.
17. A Highway Code for road users is in the process of being prepared and should be available soon.
18. Expansion of Neighbourhood Watch and Resident Beat Officer schemes.
19. The research capability of the Force will be enhanced.
20. We are to review operational and administrative standards of the Force to bring them in line with international standards.

THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

The period 1986 to 1991 has seen Barbados once again taking a leadership role in the English Speaking Commonwealth Caribbean. Bickering and mistrust have been replaced by mutual respect and cooperation, and relations have been restored to a positive plane. Barbados' role in helping political democracy to Haiti has demonstrated clearly that mature level headedness, a clear understanding of the issues, and mutual respect cannot be substituted by bombast and arrogance. Political developments in Haiti subsequent to the Heywoods summit (1988) have demonstrated the wisdom of Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford's stance on that occasion. Barbados' standing in the CARICOM and beyond is at its highest during the last fifteen years. At the regional level Barbados has advocated the establishment of an Assem-

bly of Parliamentarians in order to promote dialogue among Caribbean people. Mutually beneficial collaboration is taking place between Barbados and China, as demonstrated in the construction of an indoor gymnasium at Wildey, and major extensions to the Barbados Community College buildings. These projects and other areas of Government to Government collaboration attest to the cordial relations which Barbados shares with other states.

Mrs. Maizie Barker-Welch, parliamentary representative for St. JOSEPH, SERVED AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE INTERAMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN from 1986 to 1990, and was ELEVATED TO THE PRESIDENCY IN 1990 FOR A TWO YEAR TERM.

DR. ERSKINE SIMMONS IS NOW SERVING AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY/ AFRICAN-CARIBBEAN-PACIFIC group of countries.

MR. ROBERT "BOBBY" MORRIS served for three years as the REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE of the COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION.

THE HONOURABLE BRANFORD TAITT IS NOW SERVING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANISATION, SANITARY CONFERENCE.

HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER MR. LAWSON WEEKES SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION.

After serving as VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CARIBBEAN CONGRESS OF LABOUR MR. LEROY TROTTER WAS ELECTED TO THE PRESIDENCY of that organisation for a three-year term of office.

During the last four years dramatic changes have occurred at the level of international politics, and Barbados, a small island state, is not immune against these developments. We refer to the end of the "Cold War" between the East and West, and tentative steps towards collaboration by the two superpowers. The DLP is mindful that the transition period is likely to be difficult.

The new political and economic world order offers challenges which a DLP Government intends to convert into positive opportunities for economic growth and development. A DLP Government will implement strategies to access these consolidated markets in Europe and North America, and continue to employ foreign policy as a major instrument of job creation, trade promotion, investment and cultural exchanges.

A DLP Government reaffirms its commitment to an active foreign policy based on the following fundamental principles:

- (a) Recognition of the right to equality of all states in the international community,

and in particular the rights of small states to conduct their business without being bullied or harassed by richer and more powerful states;

- (b) preservation and protection of our national independence, national sovereignty and national security;
- (c) pursuit, protection and development of national resources and national economic interests;
- (d) Resistance to the penetration of our culture and way of life by alien ideologies which do not respect fundamental rights, moral values, the rule of law, and a greater measure of equality in social and economic life;
- (e) Collaboration with countries in the region and beyond in working for peace and justice, and for a more humane, and mutually beneficial social, and economic order.

Specifically we will:

1. in collaboration with the private sector implement a massive retraining programme of our foreign service officers to direct their thrust to an aggressive promotion of Barbados' trade and investment strategies, paying special attention to Central and South America.
2. Pursue initiatives to enhance the regional integration movement;
3. Vigorously pursue initiatives to strengthen trade and economic relations with Central and South America.
4. Protect and advance the welfare of Barbadians abroad by maintaining contact with them personally through our embassies and enhancing links with their organisations.
5. consolidate relations with our major trading partners Canada, the United States, and the European Community.
6. deepen collaboration with African and Asian countries at the economic, cultural and political level.
7. support measures to strengthen the United Nations organisation and other regional organisations in which Barbados has membership.

THE INSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAMME

The Public Service

The Philosophy which has guided the actions of the Democratic Labour Party in Government in relation to public administration is that an efficient and contented public service is the best means of realizing national policies and programmes. Such actions have been rooted in:

- * the systematic enhancement of conditions of work and the terms of service of civil servants and the staff of the statutory Boards within the limits of the country's resources;
- * the development and implementation of relevant operational systems which are directed towards optimal public accountability;
- * the better management of the human resource so as to improve individual as well as organizational performance.

In practical terms the following achievements since May 1986 characterize the policies of the Government in respect of the public service:

- * the re-institution and expansion of study leave to public servants;
- * the re-orientation and enhancement of local training through local resource persons as reflected in the successful completion of seven five-month courses for customs personnel at the basic and middle level. Approximately 120 officers benefited from this training. Also the institution of intensive certificated courses at two or three levels in accounting, personnel management and general management as well as specialized training for Income Tax personnel;
- * the preparation and circulation of a new accounting manual for use throughout the public service; the revision of the General Orders and the development of rules of guidance and manuals for the public service; the re-institution of an Organization and Management Unit to conduct efficiency and organizational audits;
- * a comprehensive re-classification of posts in an on-going programme. Some 5000 officers

and employees have benefited from this programme in which all the trade unions and other representative bodies participated;

- * the strengthening of the industrial relations machinery as reflected in the settlement at domestic level of two salaries revision in the period;
- * the programme of reducing the complement of temporary posts through permanent establishment. Nearly 1000 such posts were put in the permanent establishment over the period. Increased staff for the Police Force and Prison Services as well as for the health services were also provided;
- * the reform and extension of pensions for the benefit of casual employees, the non-teaching staff of the Secondary Schools and the tertiary level educational institutions, as well as for the more than 3000 employees of some statutory boards by virtue of the Casual Employees (Amendment) Act, 1987, the Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1989 and the Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1990;
- * the preparation and commencement of a planned programme of maintenance and improvement of office accommodation to rectify the neglect of previous years. The completed or on-going projects in the programme include major repairs to Police Stations and the Law Courts, the Treasury Building, the National Insurance Building, the Ministry of Agriculture at Graeme Hall and the building which houses the Immigration Department, also the abandonment of parts of Marine House, the complex at Cumberland Street and the consequent rehousing of the relevant Departments. New construction includes the St. Cecelia Barracks and the National Insurance complex at Culloden Farm.

These policies and programmes will be continued and deepened. Greater attention will be paid to reporting to Parliament by Government Departments, Statutory Boards and other agencies as a necessary aspect of public accountability.

The strategy for improving the performance of the

public service will include widening the computer-based reform and information systems; better career and succession planning, improved recruitment methods and testing for aptitudes and placement.

The establishment and maintenance of a stronger mechanism for industrial relations will be put in place as well as a joint consultative process involving worker representative organizations, management and the Government.

New office complexes and other accommodation are planned or are underway at Marine House, Holetown, the Queen's College site at Constitution Road and for the Supreme Court Centre at Country Road. The repair and maintenance programme of existing facilities will also be intensified.

The Democratic Labour Party has presented a Policy Agenda which will:

Enhance the productive capabilities of the Barbadian economy;

Improve the standard of living of all Barbadians;

Provide a better quality of life for all;

Protect and uplift the moral values of our society.

The Democratic Labour Party has also presented a mix of candidates, representative of all cross-sections of our society and equipped, by experience, qualifications, and demonstrated commitment to deal with all the difficult issues facing our country. Sensitive to the needs of our countrymen and ready to continue to provide the sound management required the Democratic Labour Party pledges itself to adhere to the policies set out in its MANIFESTO.

We further pledge to continue to conduct the peoples business with humility and decency, to avoid arrogance and deceit at all costs, and to be ever mindful that we are the SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE.

We solemnly pledge that a Democratic Labour Party Government will, without deviation, protect the fundamental rights of our people and uphold the RULE OF LAW.

What the DLP is doing.

*Into the 90's
and beyond*

A blueprint that harnesses
minds and methods to produce
sustainable well-being and
wealth for the people of Barbados.



... for a Bountiful Barbados