

*A New Day Dawns... A Day of Hope and Promise for every citizen of Barbados.*

# FORWARD

*with Pride, Industry, Dignity and Honour.*

*Let us rebuild Barbados together.*

*Join the NDP in the struggle against*

*unemployment,*

*crime and overtaxation;*

*against the neglect*

*of the youth, the*

*elderly and the poor.*

*Let us go forward,*

*united, strong and*

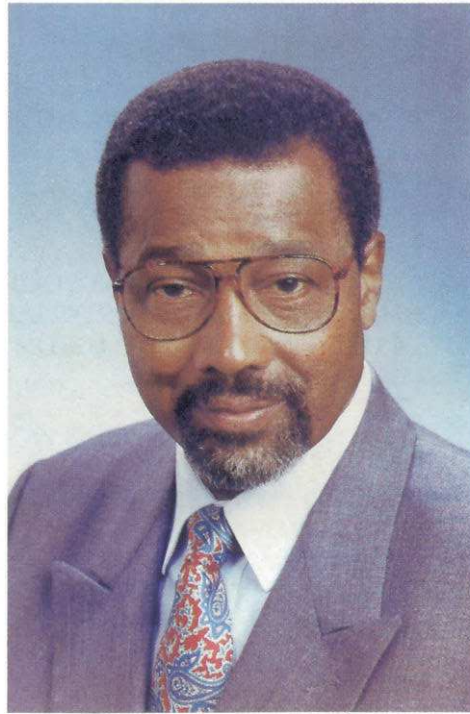
*with the confidence that*

*comes with total*

*commitment.*

**WE NEED A CHANGE**

**VOTE TEAM NDP**



Dear Fellow Barbadians,

Greetings to you. I am aware that this is a very critical time in the political history of our country. Like you, I am very concerned. I have always wanted nothing but the best for our country.

We are at a crossroads in our spiritual, political, social and economic lives. You have seen what the other political parties have done to our people. They have failed all of us.

We offer the alternative. Our Party, The National Democratic Party, is committed to helping the people of this country put Barbados back among the most highly regarded islands in the Caribbean and bring back stability to this island.

we are committed to serving you the people. We are committed to a new path and a better way for all.

You have tried the other two Parties endlessly. They have not lived up to your expectations. I urge you to support the team offered by the NDP. We can make the difference our country needs at this time.

Our goal is to serve all of the people of this island, to bring back the pride in the country which we have lost and to offer a better present and future for all.

The eyes of the Caribbean are on us now. They are asking "Whither Barbados". We need to restore that faith and

admiration which our neighbours had in us. We were once the envy of the Caribbean. Let us work together to bring Barbados back.

Our history shows that it has always taken a new Political Party to bring about change and lead us forward. Now is the time for a change and we are here to be part of and to pilot that change.

Now is the time for leadership and we are best positioned to provide that leadership. Have faith in the NDP. Give us the chance you gave the others and we will not let you down.

Leadership, jobs, crime, the tragedy surrounding our youth, the plight of the elderly are among many things causing you grave concern. As you read this manifesto you will detect that we share your concerns and have provided solutions.

We NEED a change

On September 6th, please go to the polls and choose the team for change. Vote for the NDP Candidate in your constituency. Vote for **New Direction Politics**.

*Richie Haynes*

Richie Haynes

Political Leader

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# INTRODUCTION

## TIME REVEALS THE TRUTH

Time reveals the truth and separates the genuine from the fraudulent, and so it has been with politics in Barbados. Time has shown that the National Democratic Party (NDP) told the truth during the 1991 General Elections and the DLP did not.

Time has revealed that Richie Haynes and the other founding fathers of the NDP acted out of a genuine concern for the social, economic and political well-being of Barbados. Time has afforded the electorate the opportunity to appreciate the ability, integrity and good intentions of the NDP's leadership.

Time has proven that The NDP is committed to the building of a just and caring society in which everyone seeks to uphold, promote and defend the legitimate interests of all others and special care and protection are accorded to the poor, the young, the old and the disadvantaged.

The NDP's 1991 Manifesto has stood the test of time and is now widely appreciated for the excellence of its analysis, the accuracy of its predictions and the applicability of its prescriptions. The policies and programmes presented in that Manifesto still constitute a feasible solution to most of the social, economic and political problems facing Barbados.

## YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE

In the introduction to the 1991 Manifesto, the NDP stated:

*"The choice which confronts us is clear cut. We have to choose between an old political order which has proven to be incapable of stemming the tide of economic, social and moral decay, and a new political order capable of meeting the difficult challenges which lie ahead, and of transforming Barbados into a land where justice, economic prosperity, social cohesion, peace, tranquility and mutual cooperation prevail.*

*Barbados stands at the cross-roads, in a state of deep and encircling crisis and only new, honest, enlightened and effective political leadership can rescue our beloved country from social and economic disaster."*

These words have proven to be prophetic. The prospect of social, economic and political decay to which we sought to alert the electorate has now become grim reality.

Today, an NDP Government remains Barbados' only hope of stemming the tide of social, economic, political and moral decay.

In 1991, the NDP offered Barbados *"an opportunity to choose honest, enlightened and effective political leadership, committed to the attainment of social cohesion, economic prosperity, moral upliftment and cultural fulfillment."*

The mission of the NDP remains the same. The policies and programmes of an NDP Government would be designed to foster social cohesion, neighbourliness and mutuality among all sections of the society.

With the consent, approval and support of the people, an NDP Government would rescue Barbados from the social, economic and political morass in which it now finds itself, and restore our beloved Country to its former dignity.

An NDP Government would:

- Take the pressure off the backs of the poor;
- Put people back to work;
- Maintain the value of the Barbados dollar;
- Promote political and religious tolerance;
- Improve the quality of life of all Barbadians.

## YOU HAVE TO VOTE FOR CHANGE

Mindful of the high degree of disenchantment with politics, especially among the young, the NDP in its 1991 Manifesto stated:

*"The NDP exhorts all adult citizens and residents of Barbados to participate in the elections and vote for the New Direction in Politics which it offers.*

*The NDP is aware that the failures of the old political order have caused many persons to become disenchanted with politics and alienated from the society. Some such persons have been expressing a disinclination to vote.*

*However, Barbados stands in dire need of a New Political Direction and everyone above the age of 18 years has a civic duty to vote and to help determine the political future of Barbados.*

*Anyone who fails to vote against the old political order would have acted in a manner which could result in the persistence of the present decadent state of affairs. This would be as true of those who did not vote, as it would be of those who voted for the old political order.*

*However, those who are aware of the failures and shortcomings of the present political order, but fail to vote for change would carry a greater responsibility for the social, economic and political degeneration which would be visited upon Barbados, if there is no change in the political order.*

*A necessary precondition for constructive political change is an awareness of the need for change. Accordingly, everyone who is aware of the shortcomings of the old political order has a moral responsibility*

*to vote for a new political order. The politically disenchanted have a special responsibility in this regard, because they are the ones who are most keenly aware of the bankruptcy of the old political order."*

Events over the last three and a half years have borne out the wisdom of the foregoing remarks. Indeed, the submissions by the NDP in 1991 have been so prophetic that we have decided to repeat our exhortation to the electorate which appeared at the end of the introduction to our 1991 Manifesto:

The NDP expects the politically disenchanted, as well as everyone else who is aware of the bankruptcy of the old political order, to give the NDP the opportunity to institute a new political order characterized by truth, integrity, morality, efficiency and accountability in the management of public affairs.

*The founding members of the NDP placed loyalty to country before loyalty to party. Had they failed to act in such a statesmanlike manner, Barbados would today be without hope of escaping the affliction of the old political order.*

*However, the patriotism of the founding fathers of the NDP cannot by itself save Barbados from social, economic and political decadence. Barbados will be saved only if a majority of the electorate joins forces and vote for a new political order.*

*The urgency of the situation makes it imperative that all Barbadians set aside party loyalty and personal affection, and vote for what is best for Barbados, a new political order.*

## LOOKING TOWARDS



## AN Ndp FUTURE

# THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

The NDP has formulated a challenging and exciting **Special Emergency Programme** to deal with the deep social, economic and political crises which encircle Barbados. As the **First Order of Business**, an NDP Government shall:

1. Institute measures to take the pressure off the poor, and restore to the people several benefits that were taken from them by the DLP Government;
2. Provide public workers with job and wage security and other improvements in their conditions of service;
3. Create an environment that is conducive to rapid job creation in the private sector;
4. Launch a **Youth Development Programme** aimed at meeting the needs of the youth;
5. Implement a programme of Constitutional and governmental reform;
6. Rescue Barbados from the IMF and improve Barbados' image in the International Financial Community.
7. Address the problems pertaining to law and order.



*Richie Haynes*



*Take hold of the NDP's helping hand.*

## TAKING THE PRESSURE OFF THE POOR

The NDP subscribes to the view that the health of a Nation should be judged by the quality of life of the people in general, and by the standard of living of the least fortunate, in particular. Accordingly, the NDP is committed to ensuring that the standard of living of the least fortunate in our society is lifted above the poverty line.

The NDP is deeply concerned that, during the last three and a half years, the poor have become poorer and have had to endure intolerable hardships. Therefore, as a matter of utmost urgency, an NDP Government would put in place the following measures, all of which have been designed to alleviate the hardships which the poor have been forced to endure:

- Remove the existing restrictions on wage increases for workers and allow the wage bargaining process to function normally;
- Implement a **Special Employment Scheme** involving the private sector, designed to ensure that, before the end of this year, at least one person in every household and/or family unit is employed.
- Exempt from taxation a basket of basic-needs goods that are purchased by the poor;
- Abandon the DLP's plans to charge economic rents for NHC housing units.
- Improve the reliability of the public transport system in the country districts and abandon the DLP's plan to increase bus-fares;
- Restructure the severance payment scheme so as to harmonize it with the Pension and unemployment benefit schemes, improve the overall benefits to workers, and protect the integrity of our Social Security system.
- Institute special arrangements, including debt forgiveness if necessary, to alleviate the problems of accumulated arrears of payments to government and government owned enterprises;

- Ensure that our welfare agencies have the resources to respond adequately to the needs of the poor;

- Establish a special fund to be placed at the disposal of Principals of secondary schools in order to ensure that the education of no student will be disrupted, because of a parent's inability to provide bus fare and lunch money. It is expected that the fund would be administered fairly, discreetly and with concern for the sensibilities of children and parents.

## JOBS JOBS JOBS

The economic policies of the DLP Government have been the principal cause of job destruction during the last three and a half years, and nothing short of a complete reversal of the policies introduced by the DLP will suffice to create conditions conducive to rapid job creation.

From its inception, the NDP has been monitoring the impact on the economy of DLP economic policies and has formulated a programme to reverse the damage which those policies have done. An NDP Government would introduce a job creation programme which would:

- Place Barbados on a fast track towards economic recovery,
- Create job opportunities for the self employed;
- Substantially increase the number of private sector jobs;
- Improve the quality of jobs, the working environment and conditions of service in the public sector.

This programme has been designed to achieve the maximum attainable number of sustainable jobs during the period September 1994 to December 1995, and thereafter create new jobs at a rate of about 5,000 jobs per year. The central features of this programme are:

- The reduction of taxation;
- The introduction of a "**Job Creation Tax**

**Credit**” whereby, for purposes of computing taxes payable, a business will be allowed as an income deduction, 25 per cent of the wages and salaries paid as a result of a net increase in the number of persons it employs.

- The reduction of energy cost;
- The competitive pricing of international telecommunication services;
- The maintenance of a low interest rate regime;
- The issuance of **Security Bonds**, by a **Venture Capital Corporation**, to enable small businessmen to obtain credit from commercial banks and other financial institutions.
- The rehabilitation of agriculture;
- The facilitation of improvements in our tourism product and expansion in the tourism sector;
- The promotion of the international business sector;
- The revitalization and re-orientation of the manufacturing sector;
- The reduction of governmental red tape;
- The restoration of investor confidence in the management of the Barbadian economy;
- Training and retraining of the work-force.

The details pertaining to each of these measures are set out in the Economic Policy Section of this Manifesto, under the relevant headings.

In the interest of job creation, an NDP Government would pay the full amount of the employer and employee NIS contributions for maids and gardeners employed in private households. This measure would also ensure that such workers would encounter no problems deriving from non-payment of contributions, when applying for social security benefits. It would also result in an enhancement of their take-home pay.

## TO THE RESCUE OF THE YOUTH



*Vere Brathwaite*

The NDP is keenly aware that the future of a Nation resides predominantly in the potential of its youth. A Nation which enables young people to develop their talents to the fullest is a Nation with a secure future. An NDP Government would, therefore, be highly responsive to the needs and aspirations of the youth, and would spend at least \$20 million a year on special programmes and projects pertaining to the youth.

The NDP has identified employment, moral example and the opportunity for constructive self-expression as the priority needs of the young people of Barbados, and an NDP Government would be bound by a solemn charge and promise, to seek to meet these needs.

An NDP Government would:

- Implement a comprehensive youth development programme aimed at ensuring that every young person is given the opportunity to develop his or her talents to the fullest.
- Create sufficient opportunities for young people of working age, to make productive, remunerative and dignifying use of their time, energy and talents.
- make provision for youth participation in decision making at all levels of Government.
- Significantly upgrade and expand the National Training Board's Skills Training Programme and remove the 25 years, age restriction on entry to the programme.
- Provide "start-up kits" for any person who has graduated from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the Skills Training Programme, or from any other approved programme of training



and is desirous of working in the area in which he or she has been trained;

- Establish a well staffed **Business Advisory Centre** to evaluate the feasibility of small business ventures and to encourage and assist young people to enter the world of business, on an individual as well as on a cooperative basis;
- Upgrade and expand the Apprenticeship Programme;
- Provide adequate funding and administrative support for the Barbados Youth Council.

## **CRIME MUST BE CONTROLLED**

The maintenance of law and order is the primal responsibility of a Government. Therefore, any Administration which presides over the deterioration of law and order in the society must be deemed a failure and should be discarded.

In recent years Barbados has experienced an unprecedented decline in law and order. So much so that crime and violence now pose a grave threat to the survival and progress of our society.

As a matter of utmost urgency, an NDP Government would take all necessary steps to arrest the rapid deterioration of law and order, and restore Barbados to a state in which citizens are respectful of authority and generally disposed to obey the law.

As part of this process, an NDP Government would institute a review of the criminal justice system, with a view to updating and attuning it to the present circumstances of the society.

An NDP Government would scrupulously obey the law and work assiduously to ensure that our people do not live in continual fear of criminal assault.

### **The Police Force**

The NDP is persuaded that an efficient and effective police force is essential to the maintenance of law and order. The NDP is also aware that an inadequate and ill-equipped police force is likely to resort to tactics

which infringe unduly on the rights of individuals. A police force which has been placed under undue pressure is unlikely to have the time and inclination to pay full attention to the cultivation of proper relationships with the community.

An NDP Government would immediately address the problems of the Police Force, including all problems which adversely affect the morale of police officers. In this regard, an NDP Government would:

- Review the operations and command structure of the Police Force, with a view to ensuring that it functions at the highest level of efficiency and effectiveness;

- Ensure that the Police Force is adequately staffed, well equipped, highly trained and reasonably remunerated;

- Institute a phased programme of expansion, so as to increase the size of the Force to at least 1500.

- Rectify the appalling conditions under which policemen have been required to work. In doing so, the opportunity would be taken to rebuild some of the police stations in more strategic locations. For example, District C Police Station would be relocated to the Six Cross Roads area;

- Provide the necessary equipment to enable the police to respond quickly to all emergencies and to patrol the country adequately;

- Increase the capability of the police force to deal with white collar crime and counteract drug trafficking.

### **The Prison System**

In recent years, prison officers have been suffering from neglect by Government, and our prison system has been rendered incapable of functioning as a highly effective correctional institution. An NDP Government would address this problem by:

- Increasing the staff complement at Glendairy to at least 230 persons;

- Making provision for Social Workers and Psychiatric Nurses on the staff of the Prison.

- Establishing a Training Facility for prison officers and for persons desirous of becoming prison officers;
- Establishing a **Remand Centre** for "First Timers";
- Establishing separate and more open prison accommodation for persons serving terms of imprisonment of 18 months or less.

## A NEW DEAL FOR THE AGED

The ultimate test of a just and caring society relates to how well it cares for the aged. The NDP is deeply concerned that many of our senior citizens who have laboured hard in humble and not-so-humble occupations to build our Nation, are forced to live out their remaining days in acutely sub-standard conditions.

In order to eliminate this situation, An NDP Government would:

- Increase non-contributory old age pension to a level sufficient to meet the basic needs of the elderly;
- Implement a systematic and sustainable programme for the maintenance of the homes of those senior citizens who are in need of such assistance.
- Install indoor, water borne toilet facilities in homes of pensioners who are currently without such facilities.
- Expand the Home Help Service and increase the work-week for home helpers from three days to five days.
- Introduce special arrangements to ensure that senior citizens are not denied access to the services of public utilities because of inability to pay.
- Grant pensioners living in their own homes an eighty percent discount on the property taxes, if the property has been valued for tax purposes at not more than \$250,000;
- Revise NIS Regulations to allow persons with a foreign pension to obtain local pension benefits, without surrendering the foreign pension;



*Richard Byer*

## BETTER GOVERNMENT

It is generally agreed that recent events have clearly demonstrated that there is an urgent need for Constitutional and governmental reform. The NDP intends to afford the public an opportunity to participate in discussions on Constitutional reform, so that the revised Constitution would be a true expression of the will of the people.

Therefore, in accordance with the wishes of the electorate, an NDP Government would take immediate steps to set in train a consultation process, whereby the people would be able to give full expression to their preferences regarding Constitutional and governmental reform. In these matters, an NDP Government would consider itself to be bound by the National Consensus.

On the basis of the foregoing and with the consent of the electorate, an NDP Government would amend the Constitution to provide for:

- A Barbadian Head of State;
- Referenda on matters of major public concern, such as the death penalty and the reorganization of the educational system;
- The recall of Members of Parliament who have manifestly lost the confidence and support of a significant majority of their constituents;

- The reform of the Senate;
- Greater wage security for public workers;
- Reversal of the 1974 amendments to the Constitution that have had harmful effects on the Public Service;
- Restoration of full responsibility for appointments, promotions, transfers and discipline within the Civil Service, to the Public Service Commission;
- Repeal of the Saving Law Clause in the Constitution, so as to ensure that all "colonial" laws that infringe on the fundamental human rights of Barbadians are deemed unconstitutional.
- A **Contractor General** who will be assigned Statutory responsibility for the integrity and efficiency of systems pertaining to the award of government contracts.
- Any other appropriate matter on which there is a national consensus;

An NDP Government would also:

- Introduce integrity and anti-corruption legislation.
- Require Cabinet Ministers and Chairmen of Statutory Boards to make a full disclosure of their assets and liabilities.
- Abolish the Housing Allowance for the Prime Minister, whether or not he chooses to live in Ilaro Court.
- Place strict curbs on overseas travel by Ministers.
- Appoint members of statutory boards on merit and not on political allegiance.
- Institute formal procedures pertaining to succession to the office of Prime Minister, so as to ensure conformity to the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

The present machinery of Government is not well attuned to the requirements of a progressive society in a modern technological age. Unless the Public Service develops the ability to assimilate and disseminate

information rapidly and make quick decisions, Barbados will drift farther and farther behind the frontiers of progress. Hence, there must be organizational and attitudinal changes in the public service, which would put a premium on initiative and problem-solving ability and would also render the public service more responsive to the needs of the people.

An NDP Government would, therefore, promote governmental reform aimed at making the Government more efficient, more participatory, more honest and more responsive to the needs of the people. Such reforms would include the introduction of a system of local government.

The specific form of local government introduced would not be imposed by an NDP Government, but would be the result of an evolutionary process, guided by the needs and interests of the various communities. In other words, an NDP Government would introduce a community-based system of local government.

However, the NDP envisages that the Local Government Councils will have responsibility for certain aspects of the Welfare, Sanitation and Home Help Services, within the geographical area under the Council's jurisdiction. In addition, the Councils should have some responsibility for the management of and maintenance of schools, Community Centres, Parks and Day Care Centres within their jurisdiction. It is also expected that Local Councils would also discuss and report on major pieces of legislation.

The specific role of an NDP Government in this exercise would be to ensure that the overall provision of services by the local and central government is cost efficient and within the bounds of fiscal prudence.

### **Salaries of Cabinet Ministers**

The NDP joined in the nation-wide condemnation of the Government, when it increased the salaries of parliamentarians in 1991, shortly before instituting the 8 per cent wage cut for public sector workers. Therefore, In recognition of this fact the NDP pledges that an NDP Government would reduce the salaries of Cabinet Ministers by 10 per cent and keep them frozen until the economy fully recovers from the recession. Dr. Richie Haynes has also promised to cut his personal salary by 25%, should he become Prime Minister.

We cannot promise to reduce the salaries of other parliamentarians, because the NDP is philosophically opposed to the reduction of a person's salary without

his or her consent. Moreover, the NDP does not believe that the salaries of Cabinet Ministers should be tied to the salaries of Civil Servants. Therefore, the rolling back of Cabinet Ministers' salaries would not in any way prejudice negotiations for salary increases for public servants.

## THE IMF MUST GO

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) lacks an adequate understanding of the workings of the Barbadian economy and a proper appreciation of the philosophy, aims and aspirations of the Barbadian people. Their goals are not our goals and their concerns are not our concerns. It is, therefore, not in our best interest that the IMF should have effective control over Social and Economic Policy in Barbados.

On assuming Office an NDP Government would say a polite thank you to the IMF and resume full responsibility for the management of our economy. Our investigations have confirmed that Barbados under an NDP Government would be fully credit worthy in the eyes of the international financial community, and would have no need of special endorsement from the IMF, in order to access international financial markets. The economic policies set out in this Manifesto and the technical skills of certain NDP candidates would be especially helpful in this regard.

## PROTECTING OUR PUBLIC WORKERS

Public sector workers have a major role to play in the continuing development of Barbados. It is, therefore, highly important that the Public Service functions efficiently and effectively.

Since 1974, civil servants have had to endure an unhealthy degree of involvement of politicians in matters of appointment and promotion in the public service. This unhealthy state of affairs has recently been made worse, by the realisation that public servants have little or no wage security.

This state of affairs constitutes an unnecessary impediment to high morale in the public sector. An NDP Government would take the following steps to rectify this situation:

- Introduce legislation to give public sector



*Joseph Goddard*

workers wage security;

- Repay, in a phased manner if necessary, the money taken from public servants during the period of the 8% pay cut;
- Remove existing restraints on wages and allow the collective bargaining process to function in a normal manner;
- Provide new options within the pension plan for public servants which would allow better provision to be made for the surviving spouse of a public servant who dies either before or after retirement;
- Re-empower the Public Service Commission to discharge its function as originally set out in the Constitution;
- Introduce administrative reforms and technical upgrading to enable public servants to make full use of modern management practices and better utilise the computer and electronic technology;
- Eliminate the sub-standard conditions, physical and otherwise, under which many public servants are forced to work.

Several categories of public workers, including sanitation workers and personnel at Day Care centres, have been sorely neglected by both BLP and DLP Administrations. An NDP Government will rectify this situation and will ensure that all public sector workers enjoy fair and reasonable conditions of service.

# SOCIAL POLICY

The social policies of the NDP have been designed to promote substantial and continual improvement in the quality of life of everyone residing in Barbados. They are also intended to uplift the standard of living of the least fortunate in our society, to the point where all undesirable disparities in living standards are eliminated.

## THE DISADVANTAGED

A just and caring society is responsive to the needs of all disadvantaged persons within the community. Therefore, pursuant to the NDP's commitment to the building of a just and caring society, an NDP Government would put in place a comprehensive programme to provide adequately for the needs of both the permanently and the temporarily disadvantaged.

### The Disabled

At present, Barbados does far less for the physically and mentally handicapped than should be expected of a just and caring society. Among other things, the NDP's programme for the disadvantaged is designed to rectify this situation.

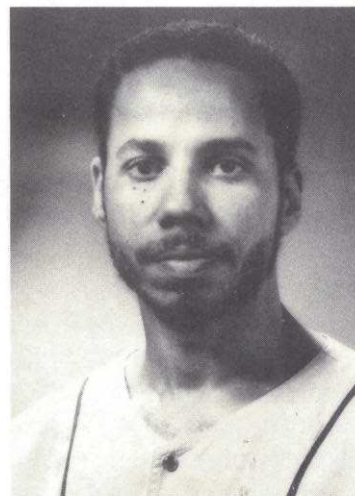
An NDP Government would:

- Establish a Government Bureau to address the concerns of the disabled;
- Place greater emphasis on the needs of the disabled, when formulating Government's Social Welfare Programme;
- Provide an annual subvention to the Barbados National Organization for the Disabled (BARNOD);
- Reduce the cost to parents of educating the physically handicapped, by providing government owned facilities and appropriate subsidies to privately owned facilities;
- Ensure that the Children's Development Centre is adequately staffed, fully utilized and,

if necessary, expanded to cater to everyone who is in need of its services, which would be extended to include day-care facilities.

- Make financial provision for the employment of an adequate number of speech therapists, occupational therapists and physio-therapists;
- Establish a "mid-school" for slow learners;
- Install facilities in schools and other Government buildings, to cater to the needs of persons in wheel-chairs;
- Support any reasonable initiatives by parents and relatives of handicapped persons, to establish arrangements which could lighten the burden which such persons carry, in caring for the handicapped.

Persons who have had to serve time in prison, often find themselves at a severe disadvantage, when it comes to finding a job or being accepted back into society. We propose no immediate solution to this problem. However, an NDP Government would seek to sensitise the entire community to this problem and would work with all concerned organizations and individuals, in order to effect a solution.



*David Comissiong*

## EDUCATION

The NDP recognises that education is a strategic factor in the development of our Nation and a potential passport to prosperity for the individual. The NDP also recognises that economic development in the 21st Century will be based upon the possession of a well educated, highly trained and technologically advanced work-force. The NDP is, therefore, fully

committed to excellence in education and to the provision of government financed education, for all Barbadians, up to and including University level.

If the future of our Nation is to be assured, our educational system must have the capability to adapt to the increasingly complex requirements of the modern technological age, as well as to the individual needs of students in a changing society. If our young people are to realise their full potential, our educational system must become increasingly proficient in the identification and development of their diverse talents.

The National Democratic Party is, therefore, committed to ensuring that our educational system is endowed with the ability to meet the needs of the society and accommodate the diverse interests and talents of students. These things can best be achieved in a school environment characterized by discipline, enthusiasm, initiative and creativity among staff and students alike. An NDP Government would, therefore, make a special effort to foster such an environment within our school system.

As a necessary step in this exercise, an NDP Government would show proper regard and concern for teachers and would seek to restore the esteem of teachers to a level consonant with their strategic importance to the well-being of our society. In particular, an NDP Government would improve the terms and conditions of employment for teachers and enhance the career structure within the teaching profession.

The teaching service would be established as an entity separate and apart from the general civil service and there will be a separate Service Commission for the teaching service. Teachers would be subject to their own rules, regulations, code of ethics and salary scales.

In addition, an NDP Government would:

- Obviate the need for, and put an end to overcrowded class rooms;
- Restrict the maximum size of a school, to a scientifically determined optimum;
- Eliminate the substandard physical conditions which exist at many schools, and remove asbestos from school buildings;
- Ensure that all schools are adequately staffed and equipped;

- Place greater emphasis on scientific, technical and vocational aspects of education, as well as on the study of Barbadian History and Society, the History of African Civilization and the teaching of Spanish as a second language;

- Encourage greater breadth, depth and diversity of curricula within and among schools, so as to ensure that our educational system produces students with the requisite mix of skills to meet the human resources requirements of a services oriented economy, in the modern technological age;

- Encourage schools to be innovative and to develop distinctive personalities and traditions, in consonance with nationally agreed standards of excellence;

- Institute measures that would ensure that all infants would have access to nursery school education and adequate nutrition;

- Allow more secondary schools to establish sixth forms, on the basis of merit, and in the expectation that at least one sixth form school would be established in the North of the island and another in the South;

- Widen the scope of decision making by school Principals and their staff, and confer on teachers well defined authority and responsibility for discipline, on the clear understanding that such authority must be used to restore discipline in schools to the highest level;

- Seek a national consensus for a change in the system for transferring students from primary to secondary schools, in order to eliminate the acknowledged weaknesses of the present system.

- Depoliticize the management of schools, and increase the authority of School Boards.

An NDP Government would devote additional resources to pre-primary education, with a view to ensuring that all children have access to such education. Pre-primary education would be provided either in separate schools or in separate departments attached to primary schools, depending on the circumstances.

Primary schools would be expected to place special

emphasis on the inculcation of Five R's: reading, writing, reasoning, respect and responsibility.

The resources and expertise available to primary schools would be considerably enhanced in order to enable them to pay special attention to the needs of slow learners and children with identifiable learning disabilities. Arrangements would also be introduced to allow primary schools to respond adequately to the needs of gifted children.

An NDP Government would also provide additional financial support and other resources for the Children's Development Centre, so as to enable it to fulfil its mission.

An NDP Government would assist Principals of schools, in every way possible, to provide a drug free environment in our schools. All schools would be expected to develop strong links with the communities in which they are located. Parent Teachers Associations would be encouraged to assist in this regard.

An NDP Government would be fully supportive of the University of the West Indies, and would facilitate the development of its programmes. Programmes of continuing education for adults would be developed and continually adapted to the human resource requirements of the society.



*Harold Blackman*

## HEALTH

The NDP is fully committed to ensuring that Barbadians enjoy the highest possible level of physical and mental well-being. To this end, an NDP Government would ensure that there is continual improve-

ment in the quality of medical care of our citizens, and would insist that all health regulations be enforced.

An NDP Government would:

- Restructure the health service from a service designed mainly to cure people, to a service which places equal emphasis on the prevention of illness and the promotion of better health;

- Integrate the St. Joseph Hospital into a comprehensive secondary health care delivery system, and equip it to respond to the needs of the North, especially in the area of accident and emergency services;

- Build a new Psychiatric Hospital;

- Upgrade the Geriatric Hospitals;

- Upgrade the services and conditions at Polyclinics;

- Improve our tertiary health care facilities;

- Establish adequate drug rehabilitation programmes and facilities;

- Provide proper and efficient after-care and convalescent care services;

- Encourage and facilitate the establishment of private nursing homes for the aged, in an arrangement whereby Government would pay for the services provided to the elderly poor;

- Establish a community based para-medical service, with well trained personnel;

- Deploy ambulances at strategic locations across the island;

- Solve the problems of the Casualty at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, as a matter of priority;

- Strengthen the Public Health Service and upgrade the delivery of public health services;

- Increase training of public health personnel;

- Encourage nursing specialties;

- Make better provision for graduate and post-graduate medical training;

- Improve the efficiency of the free drug service, and review existing policies regarding the use of generic drugs;

- Support the efforts of the medical community and others who are endeavouring to arrest the spread of AIDS;

- Encourage support systems for AIDS victims;



*Trevor Prescod*

## HOUSING

The quality of housing is a major determinant of the quality of life in a community. In recognition of this fact, an NDP Government would pursue policies aimed at ensuring that adequate housing is available to all Barbadians.

In accordance with this commitment, an NDP Government would:

- Ensure that every Barbadian is given the opportunity to own a home which he or she can afford;
- Introduce arrangements whereby anyone who qualifies would, with the assistance of a government agency if necessary, be able to obtain a 100 per cent mortgage loan, to acquire a home;
- Ensure an adequate supply of funds for loan at an affordable rate of interest, to persons wishing to acquire a home.
- Provide sufficient incentives to induce more construction firms and developers to build low-income houses;
- Introduce a system of tax rebates on raw materials used in the construction of low-income and lower middle-income housing, so as to make such housing affordable to more persons;
- Recommence the construction of houses by the National Housing Corporation for low income earners;

•Implement a sustained and systematic programme for the maintenance of the homes of those senior citizens who are in need of such assistance;

•Allow Government tenants to purchase the houses which they occupy, at a reasonable and affordable price, if they so desire. All such housing units would be suitably repaired before sale;

•Ensure that an adequate stock of Government-owned housing units is available for subsidized rental to persons whose incomes do not permit them to own a home;

•Institute a system whereby all qualified tenants who are interested in purchasing the tenantry land which they have been renting would be facilitated in acquiring title to such land. Tenants would be given a loan to purchase the land and to repair, renovate or replace their houses.



*Walter Blackman*

## CULTURE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A people's cultural identity is based on a collective sense of historical continuity and on the possession of unique linguistic and psychological traits. The NDP envisages Barbados as developing a wholesome, vibrant and distinctive culture, imbued with humanitarian principles; a culture that is supportive of freedom of expression and respectful of the cultural traits and religious beliefs of minority ethnic and religious groupings.

The NDP also believes that Government should play a facilitating role in the development of the artistic dimension of our culture. The NDP further believes that a strong and constructive sense of community could contribute significantly to the wholesomeness of our culture.

In accordance with these perspectives, an NDP Government would:





*Carlyle Hunte*



*Carl Applewhaite*



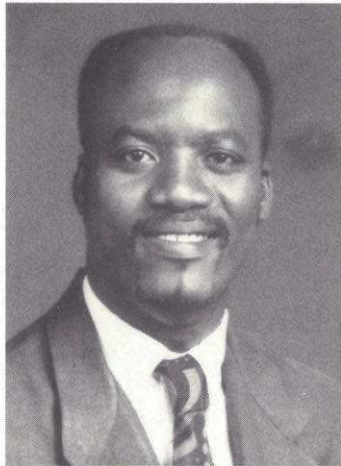
*Glenville Barrow*



*Peter Barrow*



*John Maxwell*



*Larry Walcott*



*Nigel Smith*



*George Bispham*



*Patrick Carter*



*Exley Elcock*

- Develop a new role for the National Cultural Foundation as a chronicler and preserver of our cultural heritage from the earliest times, and a facilitator of new cultural responses to the challenges which we face as a people living in a rapidly changing world;

- Promote respect for and accommodate as far as possible the cultural and religious practices of minority groupings, having regard to the national interest;

- Provide an annual subvention to cultural groups, in order to stimulate interest in and the development of cultural activities;

- Modify select school assembly halls, and install appropriate seating, lighting and other stage equipment so as to provide suitable venues throughout the island, for dramatic and other stage presentations;

- Establish craft markets in venues that would provide outlets for the display and sale of work produced by persons engaged in all aspects of arts and crafts;

- Restore the Empire Theatre as a national auditorium for the performing arts;

- Extend the teaching of Music and Theatre Arts to more schools;

- Include Photographic Arts and Dance in the curriculum of secondary schools;

- Encourage the development of pan music in the secondary schools, and in the wider community;

- Revitalize the National Independence Festival of Creative Arts (NIFCA), restore its original focus and establish it as an impressive showcase for the best of Barbados' artistic talent;

- Support the development of community festivals and the restoration of the traditional village choirs, as a means of nurturing a spirit of neighbourliness in the community;

- Encourage more widespread use of the Police Band in community activities;

- Include cultural presentations in Tourist Board

overseas promotions and highlight local arts and culture as an integral part of our tourism product;

- Ensure wider promotion and more efficient marketing of the Crop Over Festival;

- Encourage cultural exchange arrangements within and outside of the Caribbean;

- Dismantle existing red tape that obstructs the mounting of stage presentations by entertainers from other Caribbean countries;

- Amend the present Copyright legislation, in order to ensure better protection of intellectual property in creative work;

- Abolish the Entertainment Tax;

- Remove all duties currently affecting the importation of musical instruments and arts equipment;

## SPORTS



*Martin Bayley*

The NDP regards sports as a means of human and social development, capable of inculcating values such as: dedication, reliability, fair play, co-operation, mutual trust and respect. Sports also constitutes an avenue of economic opportunity for the individual, and a means of facilitating the growth and development of our economy.

The NDP is of the view that the benefits of sports and physical education are not being fully realized in our educational system or at the level of the wider community. Therefore, as a matter of urgency, an NDP Government would set up a National Commission on Sports, Education and Community Development to develop a National Plan for this important area of our national life. The Commission would comprise representatives of the National Sports Council and the various national athletic and sporting

associations, coaches, knowledgeable sportsmen, educators and businessmen.

However, without prejudice to the report of such a Commission, the NDP has formulated a policy position on sports that recognises the need to :

- Reorganize the National Sports Council and enhance its capability to respond to the needs of sportsmen and sporting organizations;
- Remove import duties and other taxes on selected sporting equipment;
- Provide all necessary financial assistance to sportsmen representing Barbados at international level;
- Fund selected sporting bodies on a matching basis;
- Improve sporting facilities on an island wide basis;
- Increase the seating capacity at the National Stadium and improve its bathroom facilities;
- Establish a cricket college;



*Kensington Oval*

## INFORMATION

The NDP is aware of the importance of information in a free society, and would seek to ensure that Barbados is well served by its information industry.

An NDP Government would:

- Take immediate steps to free CBC from its unwholesome political bias and insulate it from political interference;
- Put an end to the state monopoly on television broadcasting;
- Reactivate the Broadcasting Authority to set, regulate and monitor standards within the broadcasting industry;
- Expand the Government Information Service and charge it with the responsibility to inform and educate the public on legislation, regulations and all matters affecting the daily lives of Barbadians, as well as with the responsibility to develop an overseas press service, supplying media products dealing with cultural, commercial and industrial events in Barbados;
- Further develop the Government Audio-Visual Services and improve the production of schools' programmes;
- Provide facilities for professional training in the field of Mass Communications;
- Support the development of a local film industry;
- Make better arrangements for film censorship;
- Institute a system for the televising of parliamentary debates, on a regular basis.

# ECONOMIC POLICY



*Wendell McClean*

The central objectives of NDP economic policy are:

- The attainment of a persistently high level of employment, so that there would normally be a balance between job vacancies and people looking for work;
- Continual improvement in the standard of living;
- The development of a vibrant and profitable small business sector;
- International competitiveness of all the foreign exchange earning sectors of the economy;
- Stability of the balance of payments;

An NDP Government would pursue these objectives simultaneously, through a consistent mix of economic policies. However, the attainment of a persistently high level of employment shall be the over-riding economic policy objective of an NDP Government. Special emphasis would be placed on the expansion of employment opportunities in the private sector in general and the small business sector in particular. Persons interested in self employment would be spe-

cifically encouraged and assisted.

**An NDP Government would not devalue the Barbadian dollar.**

## FISCAL POLICY

An NDP Government would pursue a revenue constrained approach to budgeting and would desist from borrowing excessively from the Central Bank, to finance the fiscal deficit. In other words, prudence shall be the hallmark of the fiscal policy of an NDP Government.

### Taxation

The NDP subscribes to the view that, in any given set of circumstances, there is a level of taxation beyond which further increases become counter productive. The NDP is also persuaded that excessive taxation has become the largest policy impediment to economic growth and development in Barbados. The NDP is, therefore, satisfied that the level of taxation can be reduced significantly, without reducing the trend rate of growth of government revenue.

During the last three and a half years, the level of taxation has escalated to previously unimaginable heights of insanity. The tax on some items is in excess of 200 per cent.

The NDP proposes to lower the existing level of taxation and restructure the tax system in ways which would stimulate economic activity, widen the tax base and generate a faster rate of growth of government revenue. The NDP proposes to:

- Introduce a just and equitable, low-tax regime oriented towards export led growth, but with adequate protection for established industries such as the furniture, garment and food processing industries, which produce predominantly for the local and/or regional market;
- Increase the level of income that is exempted from income tax to a level that is sufficient to

satisfy the basic needs of an average household;

- Restore the deductibility of mortgage interest and house repairs for owner occupied houses;
- Reduce taxation as a proportion of GDP to about 26 per cent;
- Rationalize and simplify the present system of indirect taxation;
- Reduce the general level of indirect taxation to less than 20 per cent and exempt from taxation a basket of basic-needs items;
- Reduce property taxes;
- Introduce a differentiated system of corporation tax designed to enhance the viability of small businesses and reduce the number of business failures.

### **Expenditure**

The NDP's taxation strategy would be complemented by measures designed to improve the efficiency of government expenditure. In particular, an NDP Government would:

- Refrain from expenditure-driven budgeting and wasteful spending on low priority projects such as Sherbourne;
- Ensure that government expenditure reflects national needs and priorities;
- Require that all major capital projects meet rigorous standards pertaining to social and economic cost-effectiveness and financial affordability;
- Introduce modern management techniques so as to render the delivery of government services more efficient and cost effective.

### **Debt Management**

An NDP Government would bring a high level of sophistication to the management of the external debt and would employ modern techniques to hedge against interest rate risk as well as the risk associated with fluctuations in the value of the United States dollar.

Careful decisions would be made as to how, when and where to enter the international capital market. Incompetence in these areas has, over the years, cost Barbados many millions of dollars in foreign exchange.

Government's hard-core indebtedness to the Central Bank would be eliminated as a matter of priority. Thereafter, Government Budgets would be fully funded and the Central Bank would be required to provide only temporary financing to Government, so as to accommodate timing differences between revenue and expenditure.

## **MONETARY POLICY**

In the context of a small, open economy with a fixed exchange rate regime, monetary policy should be used principally for the protection of the balance of payments. It should never be used to accommodate the financial profligacy of Government.

If the printing of money by the Central Bank is suitably restricted, there would be no need for Government to resort to high interest rates, selective credit restrictions, trade restrictions, exchange controls or devaluation, in an effort to protect the balance of payments. Moreover, none of these harsh measures can protect the balance of payments, if the Central Bank continually engages in the printing of money.

An NDP Government would, therefore, dedicate monetary policy to the protection of the balance of payments and would refrain from relying on the Central Bank to finance the Government deficit.

### **Devaluation**

Devaluation is neither a necessary nor sufficient condition for correcting any of the economic problems which may confront Barbados. Moreover, the consequences of a devaluation are predominantly adverse, and generally undesirable. Therefore, an NDP Government would not devalue the Barbados dollar under any circumstances.

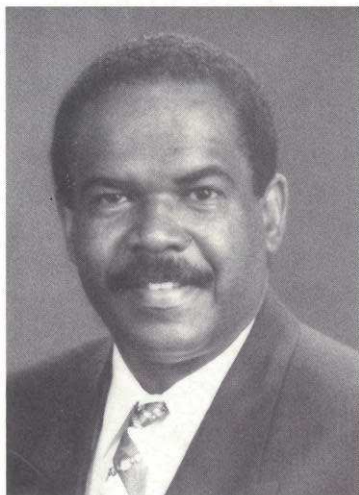
Having regard to the foregoing monetary policy position, an NDP Government would:

- Adopt a low interest rate regime, as a means of reducing production costs and enhancing the local and international competitiveness of the productive sectors of our economy.

•Liberalize the system of foreign exchange controls, in order to instill greater confidence in the Barbados dollar, and stimulate capital inflows.

•Grant Insurance Companies greater freedom and flexibility to engage in foreign portfolio investment;

•Reduce net Central Bank lending to Government to an insignificant level and generally restrict the rate of growth of the net local assets of the Central Bank, in order to enhance the Net International Reserves.



*Peter Miller*

•Maintain the existing parity of the Barbados dollar with the U.S. dollar.

## TRADE POLICY

In a small open economy, continual expansion in foreign exchange earning capability is a necessary condition for sustainable economic

growth and the maintenance of a high standard of living. Therefore, the trade policy of an NDP Government would be designed to enhance the foreign exchange earning capability of the economy. This would include strengthening of institutional supports for the export sector.

The NDP's trade policy would also be sensitive to the interests of the consumer and the preferences of ethnic and religious minorities. Persons interested in developing culturally oriented trade links with places other than Barbados' traditional trading partners would be encouraged.

On no account would the consumer be delivered up as a living sacrifice to inefficient and non-competitive local producers. However, adequate protection would be provided for select industries producing predominantly for the domestic market, e.g. the handicraft, furniture, garment and food processing industries.

Such protection would be informed by an understanding of attainable levels of cost efficiency within these industries. The trade policy of an NDP Government would also be informed by commitment to the regional integration movement and by an understanding of the

realities of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The NDP is persuaded that the pooling of regional resources is more strategic to the development of Caricom countries, than the insulation of regional industry from international competition. Therefore, an NDP Government would seek to promote regional trading arrangements that could facilitate the pooling of regional resources and the rationalization of regional production. Such arrangements would enhance Barbados and its CARICOM partners ability to compete successfully within NAFTA.

An NDP Government would call for an early review of the Common External Tariff (CET), to ensure that:

•It is oriented towards assisting the region to strengthen its international export capability;

•It is consistent with the NDP's commitment to ensure that the poor is not over-burdened with indirect taxation;

•It provides adequate protection for the handicraft, furniture, garment and food processing industries;

•Its disadvantages do not outweigh its benefits to Barbados.

•It does not compromise the region's ability to get a fair deal within NAFTA;

•It is consonant with the NDP's commitment to a low-tax regime.

## ENERGY

Security, availability and affordability shall be the watchwords of an NDP Government's policy on energy.

Unnecessarily high energy cost has been a major factor inhibiting Barbados' ability to compete in the regional and international markets. Excessive taxation has been the principal cause of the high cost of energy. An NDP Government would, therefore, reduce taxes on petroleum products.

### Electricity

The 1984 Decision of the Public Utilities Board has been another major factor contributing to the high cost

of electricity. Under pressure from the World Bank and the BLP Government, the Public Utilities Board, in 1984, reversed a prior Decision and allowed the Barbados Light and Power Company (BL&P) to include deferred taxes and investment tax credit as components of the Revenue Requirements.

As a result, the cost of electricity in Barbados is excessively and unnecessarily high. During the last ten years, BL&P has been allowed to collect \$66.7 million against an eventuality that has not occurred and is unlikely ever to occur.

This money properly belongs to Government and the other customers of BL&P. An NDP Government would put an end to this harmful situation and return the \$66.7 million to the consumers of electricity. This would be done in a manner and at a rate that would preserve the financial integrity of BL&P. This measure would significantly reduce the cost of electricity and make all businesses in Barbados more profitable.

In accordance with the principles which inform our energy policy, an NDP Government would:

- Optimize the production of local crude.
- Maximize the utilization of natural gas, by making it available to as many households as possible, in as short a time as possible.
  - Harmonize our energy policy with that of our Caricom partners, so as to deepen the regional integration movement.
  - Terminate the agreement with MOBIL and Implement a new trade and marketing arrangement for petroleum products that would allow competition among suppliers at all levels and which would entitle MOBIL to continue operating the refinery if it so desired;
  - Implement an energy pricing policy that is reasonable and fair to suppliers and consumers.
  - Ensure that the price of energy in Barbados is in line with energy prices of our major trading partners;
  - Ensure that the structure of electricity rates does not militate against the competitiveness of our foreign exchange earning sectors;

- Take the necessary steps to exclude all unnecessary and inappropriate components of the cost of electricity to the consumer.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

An NDP Government would be supportive of all efforts to ensure that Barbados stays abreast of technological developments in the telecommunications industry and would be insistent that the present cost of overseas calls and other international telecommunication services be reduced.

The NDP is satisfied that, at present, there is substantial scope for reducing the rates for international telecommunication services, without reducing the profitability of BET. At present, the unnecessarily high cost of such services constitutes a major impediment to the growth of the international business services sector.

## TRANSPORT

### International Transport

The international transport policy of an NDP Government would be designed to ensure that sea and air transport services do not inhibit tourism and the growth of our merchandise exports. In furtherance of this objective, an NDP Government would:

- Group Tourism and International Transport together in a Ministry;
- Lend its support to the establishment of a predominantly privately-owned, regional air carrier;
- Encourage additional carriers to come to Barbados.

### Public Transport

The NDP is mindful of the contribution which mini-buses, maxi-taxis and Z-vans have been making to the public transport system, but is concerned about the level of recklessness and indiscipline often shown by

many of the drivers of these vehicles. An NDP Government would cooperate with the operators of these vehicles, to find a solution to this problem that is in the best interest of all concerned, including the drivers of the vehicles.

On the presumption that such a solution will be found, an NDP Government would accord clear recognition to the role of these modes of public transport and would seek to integrate them into an orderly and better regulated public transport system. The objective would be to establish a higher degree of complementarity and a lesser degree of duplication between the Transport Board and the other modes of public transport.

An NDP Government would take the necessary steps to restructure the operations and strengthen the management of the Transport Board, in order to ensure that the Board provides a high quality service at minimum operating cost. The Board would be instructed to develop new routes and new schedules, in response to the needs of those areas of the country that are not now well served by the public transport system.

The NDP holds the view that high license fees and excessive taxation on the inputs into private segment of the public transport system would result in bus fares that are too high. An NDP Government would, therefore, significantly reduce license fees and taxation on the inputs into the public transport system.

### **Taxis**

An NDP Government would also reduce the taxes paid by taxi operators in the form of road tax and consumption tax on gasoline and diesel, and would take steps to ensure that small taxi operators are giving a fair deal. The problems confronting them at the Bridgetown Harbour would be investigated and rectified, as a matter of urgency.

## **WATER**

The general availability of high quality water has been a major factor underpinning social and economic development in Barbados. However, our water distribution system has been neglected to a point where several parts of the island no longer enjoy reliable water services. There are also signs that Government has not been sufficiently vigilant in ensuring that our water system is not threatened by contamination. In general, there is considerable scope for improvement in the management of our water resources.

Failure to address this problem could severely jeopardise future social and economic development in Barbados. In order to ensure that Barbados continues to enjoy an adequate supply of high quality water, an NDP Government would:

- Rehabilitate our water distribution system and maintain it in a high state of repair;
- Improve the management capability of the Barbados Water Authority (BWA);
- Ensure that water metres are readily available to all customers of BWA;
- Conduct continuing research into the amount and quality of water that will be available to meet our growing needs;
- Strengthen existing arrangements for the protection of our water resources and take all other necessary steps to prevent pollution of our water resources, including improvements to our sanitation and waste disposal technologies;
- Make it mandatory that there be an assessment of the environmental impact of all projects that have the potential to impair water quality and our aquatic ecosystem;
- Give priority to satisfying basic human needs and safeguarding our ecosystems, when planning the development and use of our water resources;

## **TOURISM**

The tourism sector has become the linchpin of the Barbadian economy. It is our principal source of foreign exchange, a major employer of labour and a major purchaser of goods and services from the other sectors of the economy. It is, therefore, imperative that the economic policies of Government be conducive to the survival and growth of tourism.

If tourism is to grow at a rate consonant with its role as the leading foreign exchange earning sector of our economy, our tourism industry must be profitable and internationally competitive. In order to enhance the viability and international competitiveness of tourism, an NDP Government would:



- Facilitate the improvement and expansion of Barbados' tourism plant;
- Encourage the diversification and further development of our tourism product;
- Place greater emphasis on developing and marketing Barbados as a convention destination;
- Develop health tourism both at the level of specialized care and convalescent care.
- Reduce property taxes payable on tourism plant;
- Eliminate or reduce consumption taxes and other imposts on select goods that are of strategic importance to the tourism sector;
- Ensure that the costs of electricity, water and telephone services to the tourism sector are as low as is fair and reasonable;
- Pursue an international transport policy designed to ensure that Barbados is adequately served by passenger airlines;
- Devote more resources and pay greater attention to the effective promotion of tourism;
- Integrate and assign to the same Ministry, governmental activities pertaining to Tourism and International Transport.

Recently, there has been a high degree of disquiet, in certain quarters, over the emergence of all inclusive hotels as part of our tourism product. An NDP government would, therefore, monitor the impact of All Inclusives on the island in general and on other related tourism businesses, in particular.

Whilst welcoming any innovation that could enhance the international competitiveness of our tourism product, an NDP Government would take steps to ensure that such developments would not prevent small operators in the tourism sector from making a living. If necessary, an NDP Government would take steps to ensure that all-inclusive hotels make adequate use of the services of taxi-drivers, water sport operators and other small businessmen operating within the tourism sector.

An NDP Government would also seek to ensure that innovations within the industry are consonant with our cultural identity and our values as a people. The NDP is opposed to Casino Gambling on the grounds that it could have uncontrollable negative fall out that could exacerbate the level of corruption in our society.

## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SERVICES

The international business services sector (comprising information services, offshore financial services and other business services) has the greatest potential to provide additional job opportunities, in the short and medium term, for a skilled workforce. An NDP Government would seek to create circumstances which would optimise the rate of growth of this sector, having regard to its contribution to employment and foreign exchange earnings. An NDP Government would:



*Harry Russell*

- Facilitate the entry of Barbadian entrepreneurs into the international business services sector;
- Assist Barbadian consultants to compete in the international arena;
- Ensure that the international business community regards Barbados as a source of high quality value-for-money human resources.
- Ensure that state-of-the-art facilities, especially in information technology, are available at the University of the West Indies, the Community College and elsewhere, for training persons in the skills required in the business services sector.
- Make the financial services unit fully operational and highly responsive to the needs of businesses;

- Provide administrative arrangements for the timely incorporation of companies;
- Upgrade the ship registry to standards required of a modern offshore jurisdiction.
- Establish business links with and investment opportunities for Barbadians living abroad.

## AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

The rehabilitation of the agricultural sector and the better exploitation of our marine resources would be central components of the economic recovery programme of an NDP Government.



*Randall Rouse*

The NDP's policy on agriculture and fisheries is aimed at:

- The provision of secure jobs and adequate incomes for all persons employed in agriculture and fisheries;
- Restoration of the financial viability and productive efficiency of the sugar industry;
- Cultivation of all agricultural land;
- Promotion of farming cooperatives in the Scotland District and elsewhere;
- Diversification of the agricultural sector, on a scientifically determined basis, having regard to soil characteristics, market opportunities and food security;
- Creation of greater linkages among agriculture, fisheries and other sectors of the economy;
- Improvement of crop research and extension services;
- The attainment of self-sufficiency in the production of beef, pork, mutton, chicken and eggs;

- Production of exotic fruits for the local and export markets;
- Development of horticulture;
- Improvement of the efficiency of our fishing industry;
- Expansion of the fishing industry to the point where Barbados becomes a significant exporter of fish;
- Development of efficient marketing arrangements for fish and agricultural produce.
- Further development of agro industry,

An NDP government would:

- Institute a new policy on agricultural credit and credit to the fishing industry, whereby the agricultural and fisheries sectors would be given access to long term credit, on favourable terms, with repayment schedules tailored to the requirements of the particular project;
- Make Government owned agricultural land in the Scotland District and elsewhere available to farming cooperatives, complete with necessary facilities and services;
- Considerably reduce taxation of the agricultural and fisheries sectors;
- Improve the fertilizer and weed control programmes;
- Improve the tractor lending scheme;
- Reduce the cost of livestock feed;
- Reduce water rates to small farmers;
- Increase the subsidy to boat owners, and institute arrangements to ensure that the subsidy is disbursed expeditiously;
- Ensure that an adequate supply of ice is always available to fishermen, at convenient locations;
- Promote Barbados black belly (BBB) lamb internationally, as a delicacy;

## Sugar

In its 1991 Manifesto, the NDP advanced the following proposal as a solution to the financial crisis in the sugar industry:

*"An NDP Government would take urgent steps to effect a rational solution to the financial crisis in the sugar industry. Such a solution would entail changes in the ownership, control and management of the sugar industry, as a necessary consequence of the injection of funds into the industry. Every effort would be made to ensure that such changes are conducive to the enhancement of productive efficiency within the industry.*

*As part of such re-arrangements, Government would seek to accord all persons currently employed in the industry the option of participating in the ownership thereof, and would make an especial effort to ensure that the industry retains the services of the most capable persons currently employed therein.*

*If sufficient private capital is not forthcoming, an NDP Government would inject equity capital into the sugar industry. Any such injection of equity would be no more than the minimum amount required to place the industry on a sound financial footing and, as a matter of policy, an NDP Government would restrict any such participation in the ownership of the sugar industry to a minority position and would divest itself of such interest, at the earliest opportunity."*

Since then, Government has implemented an alternative proposal for dealing with this matter. The NDP anticipates that the present arrangements will prove to be an unnecessary and inappropriate drain on government resources. In which case, an NDP Government would use its 1991 proposal as a frame of reference for the modification of existing arrangements. In this exercise, scrupulous attention will be paid to the legal and moral rights of all stakeholders in the industry. Special consideration will be given to the interest of workers in the industry.

An NDP Government would provide a guaranteed minimum price for sugar, sufficient to ensure the stability and viability of the industry. The production of sugar would be increased and maintained at a scientifically determined optimal level. The introduction of improved varieties of sugar cane and other means of increasing productivity within the industry would be encouraged.

## MANUFACTURING

The manufacturing sector in Barbados comprises two distinct and equally important sub-sectors: a domestic sub-sector consisting of firms that produce either exclusively or predominantly for the local market, and an export sub-sector consisting of firms producing predominantly or exclusively for export.

Both of these sub-sectors are at present undergoing severe strain. The domestic sub-sector in particular has been severely damaged by the policies of the DLP Government. This sub-sector is in dire need of immediate relief from the DLP policies.

### Domestic Sub-sector

The domestic sub-sector is highly reliant upon domestic purchasing power, for its survival and growth. High taxation and the credit squeeze have constrained the purchasing power of consumers to such an extent that demand for the goods produced by the domestic sector has fallen to a precariously low level and is threatening the survival of firms in the furniture, food processing and garment industries, as well as the survival of small business people in many other areas of enterprise.

The NDP's proposal to reduce the level of income tax would contribute significantly to the solution to the problems facing the furniture, garment and food-processing industries and small business-men. The NDP's corporation tax regime would be of assistance to both the domestic and the export sub-sectors. Under the NDP's corporation tax regime, firms with a low level of profitability will pay a lower rate of corporation tax than firms with a higher level of profitability. This would result in a lower level of business failures and the preservation of jobs.

### Export Sub-sector

The export sub-sector would benefit substantially from the NDP's overall fiscal regime, which will be oriented towards an export led growth strategy. Likewise, the NDP's trade policy has been designed to facilitate the growth and development of the export sector. In addition, an NDP Government would devote considerable resources, including resources within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to export promotion and to the enhancement of the design and marketing capability of the manufacturing sector.

An NDP Government would further facilitate the growth of the manufacturing sector by:

- Enabling businesses to obtain flexible funding for product development, market research into new products and technological innovation;
- Introducing flexible arrangements for the settlement of the existing debt of manufacturers to government institutions;
- Fixing affordable rents for BIDC factory space;
- The removal of taxes on raw material inputs and packaging materials.

## DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES

Successive Administrations have pursued an altogether unenlightened policy towards the distributive sector, largely because they have failed to realise that distribution is a productive service of vital importance to the efficient functioning of the economy. The NDP's policy towards the distributive sector would be rooted in a clear appreciation of the strategic role which distribution plays within the economic system.

Under any circumstances, it would be a mistake to

handicap the distributive sector. In the Barbadian case, such a policy would be doubly in error because the distributive sector is a significant direct earner of foreign exchange. An NDP Government would, therefore, eschew the practice of discriminating against the distributive sector and would seek to facilitate the continuing modernisation of this sector, at all levels.

In this regard, special attention would be paid to the problems confronting vendors. The Fairchild Street and Cheapside Markets would be rebuilt as modern, comfortable and attractive facilities. The feasibility of doing the same for the Eagle Hall Market would be examined. If feasible, this market would be rebuilt, possibly in a slightly different location.

If the distributive sector is precluded from having the financial capability to act as stockists for the products of small businesses, small businessmen would suffer. Therefore, an NDP Government would not impose any special restrictions on commercial bank credit to the distributive sector.

The prospect of devaluation poses a major threat to the distributive sector, forcing firms operating in this sector to pursue normally inappropriate inventory policies and to make less than optimal use of trade credits. Under an NDP Government there would be no devaluation of the Barbados dollar.



*Moving on up with the NDP*

# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



*Rameses Caddle*

In the long run, man's ability to protect and preserve the natural environment will be the single most important determinant of man's ability to survive on Earth. The world-wide threat to the integrity of the natural environment has rendered it necessary for any responsible and forward looking Government to accord the highest priority to environmental protection.

In addition to the question of environmental protection, the NDP holds to the view that aesthetic factors pertaining to one's environment contribute significantly to one's sense of well-being. For these reasons, an NDP Government would accord the highest priority to environmental matters, and would establish a Ministry of The Environment to assume responsibility for all aspects of environmental enhancement and preservation.

An NDP Government would:

- Remove all asbestos which has been used in the construction of government housing units, schools and other government-owned buildings;
- Strictly prohibit any new building or development on Zone 1 land;

- Institute all appropriate measures to protect the water supply;
- Strictly control the dumping of waste by companies, especially hazardous waste;
- Institute effective arrangements for the control of Pesticides;
- Institute strict controls in regard to the transportation of petroleum products and other hazardous products;
- Strictly enforce all regulations pertaining to the protection of the environment;
- Ensure that all replacement and new storage tanks are made of such materials as scientific investigation has determined to be resistant to cracks and corrosion;
- Eliminate illegal dumping;
- Effectively deter the dumping of waste in our coastal waters;
- Prevent the dumping of raw sewage;
- Institute laws and other measures to protect the country against oil spills at sea;
- Introduce Air Pollution Laws to control, inter alia, emissions from vehicles and factories;
- Impose restriction on smoking in public places;
- Control noise pollution;
- Regulate manufacturing sites as an environmental protection measure;
- Introduce regulations to control the use and disposal of plastics;
- Promote the use of unleaded gasoline;

- Strictly enforce the laws regarding the covering of vehicles which transport sand, grit, etc. on the highways;
- Improve the effectiveness of standards controls;
- Develop a modern system of solid waste management;
- Establish a major re-forestation programme to promote the “Green Revolution”;
- Demolish all derelict buildings;
- Institute a continuing programme for the drainage of gullies;
- Upgrade the coastal conservation programme.
- Institute arrangements for the better care of burial grounds and cemeteries;
- Grant permission for private individuals to build a crematorium;
- Institute appropriate measures to prevent soil erosion;
- Preserve and protect the East Coast;
- Take the necessary steps to depoliticize the management of the National Conservation Commission and enhance the efficiency and increase the scope of its operations
- Introduce methods for the disposal of solid waste that are efficient, environmentally friendly, pleasing to the eye and easy on the nostrils;

## LET OUR BEAUTIFUL BARBADOS

BE



SAFE WITH THE **Ndp**

# FOREIGN POLICY

## GENERAL APPROACH

The foreign policy of an NDP Government would be characterized by independence of thought, nobility of vision and responsible action. Our involvement in world affairs would be rooted in an awareness that ideas shape the world. An NDP Government would, therefore, seek to contribute to the fund of ideas on which the world can draw, in pursuit of peace among all Nations.

Equally importantly, an NDP Government would pursue a foreign policy designed to uphold, promote and defend the interests of Barbadians at home and abroad.

To this end, an NDP Government would seek to attain international recognition and support for the special interests and problems of small island states.

The promotion of peace among all Nations is a dominant concern of the NDP. An NDP Government would, therefore, seek to make a significant contribution to the fund of ideas on which the world can draw, in pursuit of peace among all Nations.

The integrity of a country's Foreign Policy in large measure depends on the extent to which it constitutes an accurate reflection of the characteristics of the nation. Mindful of this fact, an NDP government would cultivate closer relationships with African states and would promote the interest of African people everywhere.

Under an NDP Government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be required to play a greater role in seeking out foreign investment and favourable trading opportunities for Barbados.

## CARIBBEAN UNITY

An NDP Government would be in the vanguard of efforts to promote Caribbean integration. The NDP believes in the essential unity and the common destiny of West Indian people, and is committed to the deepening of Caribbean integration and the general enrichment of social, cultural and economic intercourse among Caribbean people. The NDP embraces such initiatives as the creation of an Association of Caribbean States, freedom of movement of personnel and capital within the region and the creation of a Regional Securities Exchange.

However, The NDP is aware that lasting progress in the integration of the Caribbean can best be achieved through measures that are seen to be fair, reasonable and considerate of the interest of all members. An NDP Government would resist all measures which deviate from this standard, to the detriment of Barbados or any other participant in Caricom. An NDP Government would by example and otherwise, encourage and promote strict adherence to agreements within Caricom.

## BARBADIANS LIVING ABROAD

The NDP holds to the view that Barbadians living abroad are entitled to the protection and assistance of the Government of Barbados. An NDP Government will seek to establish close contacts with Barbadians living abroad, especially those residing in Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, in order to respond to their needs and concerns, and to afford them an opportunity to use their skills, experience, contacts and capital to benefit themselves and their kith and kin in Barbados.

# DEFENCE AND SECURITY

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The NDP subscribes to the orthodox view that, in normal times, matters of Law and Order should not be confused with matters of Defence and Security. Hence, the NDP holds to the view that the Defence Force should be primarily engaged in matters pertaining to Defence and Security, and should not be used as a surrogate for the police force.

The Defence Force's time and energy would be best spent protecting the integrity of our territorial waters and discouraging illegal incursions into our economic

zone, and in attaining a state of readiness to deal with situations of national emergency. Subject to reasonable revenue constraints, an NDP Government would ensure that our Defence Force, though small, is well trained and adequately equipped to protect the integrity of our territorial waters and to respond effectively in cases of national emergency. An NDP Government would also co-operate with our Caricom partners and others, in order to implement an adequate and appropriate system of regional security.

# A BETTER DEAL FOR WOMEN

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*Pat McClean*

The NDP has pledged to elevate women to equal status with men in all endeavours. This pledge derives from a commitment to justice and fair play, and an unalterable conviction that women, no less than men, should be afforded every opportunity for self-fulfillment and social and economic advancement. In other words, the NDP's policy towards women is rooted in the principles of Mutualism to which the party subscribes.

The NDP regards justice and fair play towards women as desirable ends in themselves. However, the NDP

is also keenly aware that sexual discrimination against women has inhibited national progress, through the deliberate underutilization of more than half of the nation's human resources. Barbados as a Nation cannot realise its full potential, until the women of Barbados are permitted to realise theirs.

An NDP Government would, therefore, implement a planned and sustained programme of action aimed at the elimination of all discriminatory acts perpetrated against women, and at ensuring that women are accorded every opportunity to realise their full potential. Our strategy would be to seek to enlist the support of the total society in this exercise for the upliftment of our women-folk.

All Departments of Government would be required to be conscious participants in the NDP's programme for women. However, a special promotional and watchdog role would be accorded to an appropriately re-structured and adequately staffed Bureau of Women's



## Affairs.

The NDP's programme for women would be dynamic and responsive to changing circumstances and the preferences of women.

An NDP Government would introduce legislation to:

- Upgrade the wages and conditions of service of domestic helpers, whose legislated minimum wage has not been increased in the last ten years;
- Review the remuneration and other terms and conditions of service of persons employed in occupations in which women are preponderant, with a view to ensuring that such persons are equitably rewarded;
- Equate the status of non-national spouses of Barbadian women with that of non-national spouses of Barbadian men;
- Regularise the status of children born abroad to Barbadian women, whereby such children, in appropriate circumstances, would qualify for Barbadian citizenship;
- Discourage domestic violence against women;
- Discourage sexual harassment against women in the work-place;
- Establish principles of equality in regard to the employment of men and women;
- Institute modern arrangements for the collection of child maintenance payments, which accord with the respect and consideration

which should be given to our women-folk;

- Make provision for the in-camera hearing of rape cases;

- Introduce more severe penalties for persons convicted of rape and battery of women;

The minimum wage of domestic helpers would be increased to accord with other wage levels, and would be increased periodically thereafter, in accordance with the rate of increase in prices and incomes within the economy. The minimum wage for shop assistants would be similarly increased.

An NDP Government would appoint women, on the basis of merit, to serve the country at the highest level, at home and abroad, and would ensure that women are adequately represented at the policy and decision-making levels of Government.

An NDP Government would also:

- Establish on-site day-care facilities for the children of workers at government industrial estates;
- Assist women in the development of cottage industries, and facilitate access to credit for women in appropriate circumstances;
- Establish crisis centres for battered and abused women;
- Improve medical services to women by, inter alia, eliminating existing delays in the return of pap smear test results, and providing free mammograms for women referred by a medical practitioner.

**LET'S  
EMBRACE**



**THE  
NDP**

THE TIME HAS COME  
FOR POSITIVE CHANGE.

VOTE for

- Crime Prevention
- Housing for All
- Anti-Corruption Laws
- New deal for the Aged
- Government Reform
- Employment

VOTE

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

WE NEED  
A CHANGE

VOTE  
TEAM  
Ndp