

BUDGET DEBATE ENDS *Guyana Chronicle*

*Front Page*

*wed. Jan 10 1978*

# WE CAN MAKE IT, SAYS P.M.



COE BURNHAM

PRIME Minister Forbes Burnham last night stated that this would be a grave year but he was confident that the nation's resilience and determination would see it through the current economic difficulties.

Winding up the five-day general debate on the \$548 million austerity budget, the Prime Minister left the door open for the Progressive Party to convince the government to be properly on the

question of support. "The PNC is willing to welcome the PPP if it really believes in national unity and is willing to make concessions, but there are no two governments, in

• BY MOHAMED HAMALUDIN •

Guyana," he declared. He told the PPP parliamentarians: "If you don't want, we are going to make it without you. But it

would be better for you and for all of us if we are able to make it together." Coe Burnham's statement came in the course of

several comments from both the PNC and the PPP on the possibility of national unity through some form of rapprochement between the two major mass parties. Wrapping up the case for the Opposition, Deputy Opposition Leader Boyce Rambaran returned to the issue of national unity with the comment that the PPP welcomed Energy Minister Jack's remark last night that the time for

standing together by two parties. But he felt that this was not the general attitude of the government, and he called for a number of measures to be taken by the government to bring about national unity.

## PM SENDS CONGRATS TO CASTRO

PRIME Minister Forbes Burnham has sent a congratulatory message to Commander-in-Chief, Dr. Fidel Castro, on the occasion of Cuba's 18th anniversary since the victorious revolution. The text of the message is as follows: "On the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the

victory of the Cuban Revolution I have great pleasure in extending on behalf of the People's National Congress and the Government and People of Guyana and on my own behalf, warmest fraternal congratulations to you and the Government and People of Cuba.

"The Cuban people under your wise leadership have achieved brilliant successes in the cause of socialist revolution and construction and in the material progress and welfare of the nation. The important role which your country has played in the liberation struggle in advancing the security of

small states and the establishment of a just and equitable international order is recognized throughout the developing world. Over the last year the peoples of Guyana and Cuba have drawn closer together in friendship and solidarity. It is in this spirit of mutual understanding that our

governments have studied arrangements for greater co-operation and exchange. I am convinced that in the years ahead, the fraternal friendship and unity between our peoples will continue to provide the basis for the association of progressive states in co-operation to the mutual benefit of our peoples."

D-3-A-11

# Guyana Chronicle

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## P.M. TELLS TEACHERS: TREAT ALL STUDENTS ALIKE

BY LIONEL RAMJEET

PRIME Minister Forbes Burnham has called on teachers not to practice racial discrimination in schools but rather they should treat all students equally regardless of their race.

Cde. Burnham said that if teachers practised racial discrimination they would be contributing to the breaking up of socialism and Guyana's socialist thrust.

The Prime Minister was at the time speaking at the opening session of a two-day seminar at the New Amsterdam Government Secondary School on Saturday. The seminar is for headmasters, deputy headmasters and other administrative staff of primary and secondary schools in Berbice.

In his 30-minute address, the Prime Minister exhorted teachers not only to adhere to the principles of teaching

but also to translate those principles in the context of the local environment bearing in mind the philosophy of the government.

He agreed that teachers are doing a tremendous job to build the nation but at the same time he appealed to them to give their best at all times.

Cde. Burnham said that in his opinion the purpose of education in the context of Guyana was that it should be a highly productive job situation, orienting students



CDE. FORBES BURNHAM

to be highly productive individuals. Every school should be productive in an effort to produce income to assist in its overhead expenses.

The Prime Minister who spoke of a rounded personality said "Teachers must produce individuals who recognize that they are a part of the society in which they live".

He called on teachers not only to show special interest in the bright students but also

to those who are slow to learn. "You must seek to develop the qualities of everyone in the class".

Headmaster and the new chairman of the Sheet Anchor - Cumberland Local Authority Cde. Samuel Archer who welcomed the Prime Minister described him as one of the greatest leaders of the world.

The seminar was organized by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour.

### New plan to deal with this menace

PRIME Minister Forbes Burnham announced that the government will endeavour to bring a halt to the 'choke and rob' menace in the country.

This was intimated to Berbice teachers when the Prime Minister opened a two-day seminar for headmasters and other administrative staff in the county.

He made the observation that both rich and poor were affected and said that Government proposed a political and educational campaign to solve the problem.

He further explained to the teachers, who were drawn from both primary and secondary schools, that there were some who practised 'choke and rob' for the 'kicker' & brought them, while others did because they found it a more lucrative form of employment.

The Prime Minister pointed out that some of the people involved in 'choke and rob' did so because they had come from very unstable backgrounds.

D-3-A-12

Save  
It

**Burnham pays tribute to Winnie Gaskin**

Sunday Chronicle 12-13-77  
SEE PAGE 4

Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, Leader of the People's National Congress and Prime Minister yesterday paid tribute to Comrade Winifred Gaskin who died recently.

In his tribute Comrade Burnham said: The Nation and the Party have been shaken by the loss resulting from the unexpected death of the

late Comrade Winifred Gaskin.

When lesser mortals trembled she had been a pioneer in the movement for the emancipation of the Guyanese woman. She entered politics at a time when few women dared, and by determination, courage and performance proved her point and gave spirit to many others who followed. She was one of those revolutionaries who

achieved, rather than shouted, to attract support to the cause.

As the second Chairman of the People's National Congress she contributed immensely to the moulding and expansion of the Party. Her old-world sense of courtesy and politeness and her charm veiled an iron will but not her clear perception of the ultimate goals.

**THRUST**

As the first Minister of Education of Guyana, she cleaned up the Agean stables and laid the foundation for the thrust, which became clearer when in 1976 free education at all levels was introduced.

As a diplomat she was outstanding and contributed invaluable to the strengthening of the ties with our fellow West Indian and Caricom countries.

Above all, she was a dedicated Socialist who up to the day of her passing was actively serving to ensure the success of the revolution upon which Guyana has embarked.

In short she was a giant, the like of which we shall seldom see at least in this generation.

We grieve, and mourn the fact she is no longer with us in the flesh. But let us enshrine her memory by following her example and bringing to fruition her dreams.

**Prime Minister resumes duties**

Sunday Chronicle 12/13/77

Prime Minister of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Cde. Forbes Burnham has resumed official duties.

Cde. Burnham attended last Tuesday's Cabinet meeting which was held at the Residence on Vissingsen Road and resumed his duties during the past week.

It will be recalled that following an announcement from the Office of the Prime Minister on January 25, the Cde. Prime Minister

acting on the advice of his doctors, had decided to take a period of rest from his official duties.



CDE. FORBES BURNHAM

**PM CARRIES ON CO-OPS MINISTRY**

Prime Minister Cde. Forbes Burnham is now performing the duties of Minister of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation in the absence of Cde. Hamilton Green, who left Guyana for Nigeria and Tanzania on official business.

Ramsaroop, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, is now performing the duties of Minister of Information and Culture, in the absence of Cde. Shirley Field-Ridley, who left the country for Nigeria on official business.

D-3-A-13

# GNS can establish equality for women

—says WRSM chairman

**CHAIRMAN** of the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement, Cde. Viola Burnham, said that in the struggle for national development, and economic emancipation, women in the society have a vital role to play.

Women, she said, have a tremendous contribution to make in development and a right to share in the rewards for that contribution. And she stressed that the Guyana National Service is one of the best educational institutions for establishing equality for women.

Addressing members of the GNS at a Staff Orientation Course at Sophia on Thursday, the wife of the Prime Minister traced the history of women in society from primitive times up to the present and showed how their role and status had evolved.

Speaking on the topic 'Role of women in the development of Guyana' she said there is need for greater understanding among the sexes; greater compatibility; there must be no quarrels or friction among them.

**LIBERATION** "The liberation of the country is in our hands, but it will not come until there is the total liberation of the women," she told the large gathering.

"You in the National Service have the unique opportunity to know of the way of life of all areas of society and be in a better position to make a more meaningful contribution, by working together in unity."

The role of women in primitive societies did not have the social and moral implications of today, Cde. Burnham noted and said that as societies developed, the role of women seemed to become confused in terms of their social and moral duties. In Christian times, she said, the role of women tended to be the same. They were



**CDE. VIOLA BURNHAM**

expected to be closer to the home. If they did not stay at home—they were labelled bad and immoral women. A good woman in those days, was one who stayed at home and looked after children, she said.

Further, she pointed out that women were expected to be quiet and ask no questions. They were expected to be useful but in particular ways. It was not expected that too much taxation be put on their backs.

However, as societies developed and became industrialised with the coming into being of machinery, the role of women began to change. But to get some degree of mental liberation and freedom the minds of women had to enter the political arena.

**REVOLUTIONS** In revolutions in many parts of the world like Russia, China and other socialist countries in the 19th and 20th century, since it was agreed that there should not be exploitation of man by man, it also meant women.

"It was agreed that without the full involvement of women, societies cannot be fully developed. In Guyana with the coming of the PNC and its socialist objectives, women were given an opportunity to make more contribution towards the total upliftment of the

nation," she said.

In 1976, Women's International Year, it was further agreed that if there was any law that discriminated against women, that it be removed, changed or amended.

"It was the PNC who initiated the debate on equality for women in the society. As a result women are now allowed to wear trousers suit in court. Last year married women were allowed to retain their jobs in the clerical services and many other discriminatory practices were removed."

"It is my opinion that if you need to advance a woman to university level to take care of children, you are wasting your time," she said.

For working women with children, she spoke of supported services like nursery schools, day-care centres, health care facilities, children clinics and other such institutions to take care of children while mothers are at work.

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Sat. Jan. 22, 1977

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## BURNHAM TO ADDRESS UG GROUP

**PRIME MINISTER** Frances Burnham is expected to be one of the speakers at a two-day seminar on political education sponsored by the University of Guyana PNC group at Umasa Yous starting today. The opening session starts at 1 p.m. and will continue to 5 p.m., while tomorrow's session starts at 8 a.m.

The main areas of discussion will be the pros and cons of university graduates involvement in politics on campus, the role of the University in developing a new cultural emphasis, the party's expectations of graduates and a panel discussion in fostering student-lecturer understanding on campus.

A release from the Group's Secretariat said the Prime Minister is scheduled to speak on the party's expectations of graduates while the General Secretary of the Party Dr. P. A. Reid will deliver the feature address.

A SIGNIFICANT feature of life in a socialist society is the equal opportunity for employment that is enjoyed by women. In these societies it is not uncommon to find women working as electricians, welders, carpenters, truck drivers, etc. and the picture of a young woman doing the type of work, usually done by men, shows that the socialist trend

is catching on in Guyana. If women Veronica Mart, a 31-year old mother of two is part of a construction team working on the Guyana Marketing Corporation Plant at Kuyington, Cde. Mart who is a painter by trade, not only does speed work, she also assists in transporting the sand in wheel barrows to the cement machine.

D-3-A-14



# Guyana Chronicle

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## President: Stand firm to defend our rights

PRESIDENT Cde. Arthur Chung, addressing the nation on the occasion of the seventh Republic Anniversary, exhorted Guyanese to reject all that is non-productive and destructive.

President Chung also advised: "Avoid all waste. Above all, we must remain united and firm in our commitment to defend our sovereignty and our resolve to provide a better life for all

Guyana.

The President said: "I extend to all Guyanese best wishes for a happy Cooperative Republic Anniversary. Seven years ago, when we declared this fair land the first Co-operative Republic in history, there were many who entertained fears for Guyana. Those fears have not realised. Instead, we have progressed in our development with

satisfactory speed, even though for one reason or another, we have not met some of the targets set seven years ago.

"To my mind, neither the declaration of Republic Status nor the status itself has been the dominating element in our development. I believe that the progress we have made has come out of the spirit of co-operativism and our commitment to self-

reliance.

"The record set in areas of housing, agriculture and education alone speak for themselves. They are there for all to see. We have achieved comparatively more in these fields than many of the richer countries in a relatively shorter time.

"Our National Service has created new opportunities for youth development; there has been a certain amount of road-building

and road improvement. Electricity has been provided over a wide area to our rural communities.

"The Guyana National Co-operative Bank, which had been created at the birth of the Republic, has progressed beyond all expectations.

"We have acquired ownership and control of all major industries and commercial

enterprises in the land. We have, by introducing imaginative and realistic policies, kept our inflation to a minimum. Many of those policies are now being adopted by several other countries, some of which are in the Developed Groups.

"We have inflation, but most if not all of it is imported through the goods

TURN TO CENTRE PAGES

# REID'S CALL: STAMP OUT DISHONESTY



PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM yesterday received at his Georgetown residence the visiting Cuban Vice-President, Sr. Juan Almeida Bosque, here for Guyana's Republic Anniversary Celebrations. Their discussions surrounded matters of mutual interest of the two countries. Accompanying Sr. Almeida on his courtesy visit were Cde. Frank Campbell, Guyana's Ambassador to Cuba; Cde. Edis McDaniel, Executive Secretary in the Ministry of National Development and Office of the General Secretary and Miss Hernandez, Interpreter.

DEPUTY Prime Minister Polesny Reid last night declared that the ruling PNC and the government would continue the campaign to stamp out all kinds of dishonesty in the country.

Speaking at the flag-raising ceremony to usher in the eighth year of the Republic, the PNC General Secretary performing the duties of Prime Minister, further stated that as far as the values, we are concerned, public honesty and moral rectitude, high standards of efficiency and performance are obligations that rest with those in "high positions of functional authority" and those who aspire to the responsibility of leadership.

"Those in positions of responsibility must understand and accept that they do not have a monopoly of knowledge and wisdom. Their function is not to dictate to the people, but to serve the people through active and

sympathetic cooperation with them," he said.

Cde. Reid coupled this statement with a call to the nation to make 1977 production year, with the watchword being "production" to pull the country out of its economic doldrums.

**PRODUCTION**

He declared that the greatest emphasis must be on increasing agricultural production, the quest for self-sufficiency in food and surplus for export, but that the need should not be overlooked to diversify the narrowly-based economy.

The Deputy Prime Minister announced that Presidential Commissions would be set up to investigate other corporate bodies, agencies and organisations falling within public ownership, along the lines of the Commission currently investigating three public enterprises.

"These corporations have been established to produce goods and services

for the people, not to provide incomes for managers, jobs for those unwilling to work, or to waste money and time which belong to the nation and people."

He stated that when the current Commission completed its work, its report would be made public and the government "will take the necessary action with your co-operation".

Cde. Reid told the large gathering at the National Park that it had become apparent that instead of attempting to solve problems which beset the country "by applying ourselves manually, intellectually, and morally to identify and implement solutions for the collective good, far too many of us have resorted to shallow selfish practices."

"Many seem to think that the answer is to be found in avoiding responsibility, in

TURN TO PAGE 7

## Cuban team granted freedom of the City

VICE-PRESIDENT of the State Council of Cuba, Sr. Juan Almeida Bosque, and members of the visiting party were yesterday granted the freedom of the Garden City after being warmly welcomed, "baleately," by Mayor...

Sr. Almeida is head of a three-man team of Cuban officials now in Guyana for the Mashrameni celebrations. Other members of the team are Parliamentarian Roberto Sello, and head of the American Department of the Cuban Communist Party, Ulfes Estrada.

At a brief ceremony held at the City Hall yesterday morning, Mayor Short, paid glowing tributes to Sr.

## W.I. look set for sure victory, then...

**FROM GODFREY WRAY**

...the West Indies look set for a sure victory by late afternoon.

...the West Indies look set for a sure victory by late afternoon.

...the West Indies look set for a sure victory by late afternoon.

...the West Indies look set for a sure victory by late afternoon.

...the West Indies look set for a sure victory by late afternoon.

...the West Indies look set for a sure victory by late afternoon.

## Route of the bands

THE Costume Mash Competition, one of the biggest events to observe the seventh anniversary of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, will take place at the National Park starting early this morning with some 11 bands taking part.

Thousands of Guyanese are expected to tramp with their favourite bands from the assembly points and after the judging which starts at 9 a.m.

The bands leaving the National Park will take the following route: East along Thomas Road, south along Vilsingen Road, west along North Road, South along Albert Street, West along Brickdam, West along Louis Row, West along D'Urban Street, North along Camp Street, West along Middle Street to Independence Square

D-3-A-16

# Call to make 1977 Production Year

**FROM PAGE ONE**  
demanding higher wages and doing the minimum of work, even in deliberate stealing and cheating."

He said success could only be achieved in the dishonesty drive if it became the common goal of party workers, government workers and all other workers.

"Socialism, by its very nature and creed, demands the highest moral values, and the party which you, the people, have chosen to lead this nation, intends to pursue steadfastly these values," he added.

He declared that both the ruling party and the government insisted that public sector enterprises should operate at maximum efficiency in the interest of the people, and should therefore operate at all times under full public scrutiny and be responsive to public opinion.

Reviewing the state of the economy, the Deputy Prime Minister recalled the difficulties to which Prime Minister Forbes Burnham had drawn attention in December.

"There is no purpose in our deceiving ourselves. From a position of considerable economic strength at the beginning of 1976, with foreign reserves in excess of G\$200 million, we begin the year with our economy in jeopardy," he said.

He declared that, although this was similar to the experiences of most other nations apart from the oil-producing states, Guyana should not bemoan its fate but "take stock of our position, summon up our courage and by committing ourselves to the task ahead, overcome these problems, survive as a nation and continue our triumphant march along the road of social and economic progress."

He noted that the nationalisation of Bookers put the country's resources in the hands of the people, for them to exploit and use fully for their benefit and that of generations yet unborn.

But he added: "We can only develop Guyana with people who are committed to development, with people who are obligated to the masses, with people who are prepared to put the collective good before individual gain."

## Cuban team

**FROM PAGE ONE**  
fought at Fidel Castro's side for the downfall of the Batista dictatorship.

St. Almeida in his brief reply said he felt at home, here in Guyana, a country of ethnic composition similar to that of Cuba. "We are sons of a working country, a humble country," he said through an interpreter.

Socialism, he said, was being built for the welfare of the people and it was unlike the oppressive, cruel, and unjust nature of imperialism.

St. Almeida was presented with a key by Mayor Shortt as a symbol of the granting of the freedom of the city, to the Cuban visitors, so that they may share with Guyanese "all the existing rights and privileges."

"We must cast aside any belief that because we are a small nation we cannot achieve great things. Many nations in history have risen from small beginnings, but it is high goals which lead to great achievements. We have set ourselves the highest goal of all: the construction of a socialist society in which the development of all the people is the primary and ultimate objective."

"To develop we must produce, and our production must lead to surpluses: surplus goods and services, not for the purpose of individual riches or personal aggrandisement, but for the benefit of all the people."

He noted that significant work had been done in laying the foundation for economic diversification, including proposals for hydro-power smelter

scheme, but stated that all these plans would be of little use "unless we make up our minds that survival and progress, in the final analysis, depend on what kind of people we really are."

He continued: "The answer, comrades, lies in ourselves, the answer lies in whether we are patriots or quailings, whether we believe in the cause of development of people, whether we are prepared to commit ourselves to national unity, most of all, whether we are prepared to believe in ourselves."

"Because we are a developing nation, with severely limited capital resources, we must resort to technology and profession skills and still heavily dependent on imported manufactured goods, we need for large-scale production and

which are subject to inflation beyond our control, there are physical limitations to what we can do to overcome an economic crisis by external conditions."

"The secret to our survival is to be found in our human capacity; our capacity to produce more, to eliminate waste and to consume as far as possible those goods which we produce ourselves."

"We have not now the means to expand our productive capacity as rapidly as we would like, but we do have the human capacity to increase the level of our productivity. We cannot sustain better working conditions and better wages and a higher quality of life with low productivity, with high inflation by paying high wages with

productivity remaining low."

He added that productivity was also dependent on efficient use of available machinery and their proper care and handling. He said only absolutely important mechanical equipment would be imported this year, hence there was need for efficient and disciplined management of what was available.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that at the international level, Guyana remained firmly committed to the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) and "we consider the unity and integrity of CARICOM to be one of the central pillars of our foreign policy."

He stated that special importance was also attached to strengthening and broadening ties with Brazil, Venezuela and

Suifnam "on the basis of mutually beneficial co-operation."

"We are convinced that in a world of nation-states of varying interests, each state must choose its own way for the development of its people and we have chosen ours. We seek to develop a socialist society and the pattern of diplomatic and economic relations which we pursue will be consistent with this policy," he said.

He drew attention to the establishment of links with Cuba, the "close and fraternal relationship" with China, the setting up of embassies in Georgetown by the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, and plans for a possible relationship with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

"None of this suggests or should be taken to mean that we wish to abandon traditional friendships, in particular with North America and Western Europe. We remain firmly committed to a policy of non-alignment and we shall continue to work for closer co-operation with friends both in the East and the West," he said.

## COMMITMENT

He stressed the country's commitment also to the search for a new world economic order, and to the liberation struggle in Southern Africa.

"Our national security must of course remain our foremost concern and we continue to recognise the urgency and the need to protect ourselves from those who seek to undermine our stability and halt our progress through campaigns of terror, subversion and hostile propaganda. We shall need all our resources, all our courage and all our determination to pursue our strategy of development for our people which we have freely chosen."

"You the people have given the government a mandate to secure and maintain internal unity and peace. It is your duty in the discharge of its mandate to be firm and to deal resolutely with all threats to the integrity and well-being of the society," he said.

Cde. Reid paid tribute to the efforts of the workers to build Guyana since independence and to the "extraordinary vision and immeasurable intellect, to say nothing of his energy, his courage and his fortitude" of Prime Minister Burnham.

"Now, while he enjoys a long deserved and much overdue rest, we have the duty to demonstrate our appreciation by justifying the faith he has placed in us."

# Anniversary messages

## FROM PAGES

High Commission of the Republic of Guyana the assurances of its highest consideration."

.....  
Mr. VALERIE GISCARD D'ESTAING, President of France said in his message to President Chung:

"On the occasion of the National Day of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, I extend to Your Excellency my hearty congratulations and my sincere wishes for your personal well-being and the future happiness of your country."

.....  
FROM: Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic Mr. WILLI STOPH said in his message to Prime Minister Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham:

"Excellency, on the occasion of the 'Republic Day', I transmit to you cordial greetings and congratulations also on behalf of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic.

"The citizens of the German Democratic Republic follow with sympathy the efforts of the Government and the People of your country to build a new Guyana. We wish you further success on this road."

.....  
In his message to President Chung, Mr. Jules Léger, Governor General of Canada said:

"I have the honor and pleasure to convey to you the following message from the Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable Jules Léger, Mr. President,

It is with pleasure that, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Guyana, I offer to Your Excellency and to the people of Guyana in my name and on behalf of all Canadians, our best wishes for peace and prosperity."

May the good relations between our countries continue to develop in the year to come."

Mr. A. B. Roper, High Commissioner for Canada, said in his message:

"It should be an opportunity to add my own best wishes and those of Canadians living in Guyana, on this occasion. Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration."

.....  
In his message to the Prime Minister, the Ambassador of the USSR, Mr. VLADIMIR KOTENEV said:

"It gives me great pleasure to forward heartfelt congratulations to you and in your name to the Government and the people of Guyana on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana."

"I would specially like to note that during these years Soviet-Guyanaese diplomatic relations were established leading to development and friendly relations at all levels between our two countries and peoples."

"I take this opportunity to send my best and most sincere wishes for the increasing progress and well-being of your country and further strengthening of friendly relations between the USSR and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana."

"I am sure that the people of Guyana will continue to play an important role in the interest of promoting world peace and international co-operation."

"Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration."

.....  
THE General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the Council of States of the German Democratic Republic, Mr. ERICH HONECKER said:

"On the Republic Day I extend to you and the People of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana my sincere greetings and felicitations and those of the people of the German Democratic Republic."

.....  
RESIDENT Representative, United Nations Development Programme,

Mr. Josef Schutzenberger, said:

"On behalf of the United Nations Development Programme and the staff of this Office, I should like to extend congratulations on the occasion of the Seventh Anniversary of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and to express wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Guyana."

"I take this opportunity, Your Excellency, to convey to you the assurance of my highest consideration."

.....  
President of the Republic of Seychelles, MR. JAMES R. MANCHAN said:

"On the occasion of Your National Day please accept Your Excellency on my behalf and on behalf of my Government and my people best wishes for the continued prosperity of your country and well-being of your people."

"Highest consideration."

.....  
British High Commission Mr. M. P. GAUNTRY in a message to President Chung said:

"I have been commanded by Her Majesty The Queen, in the special circumstances of Her Majesty's absence from the United Kingdom, to convey on her behalf the following message to you:

"On the occasion of the Republic Day of Guyana, I have much pleasure in sending to Your Excellency my sincere greetings and good wishes for the prosperity of your country and the Guyanese people."

.....  
ELIZABETH R. He added: May I take this opportunity to add warmest congratulations and good wishes on behalf of myself, my wife and members of my staff."

.....  
Georgetown Mayor Kenneth Shortt, has received a card of congratulations from the Cuban counterpart in Guyana on the occasion of the seventh Republic anniversary.

The cable was sent by President of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Power of the City of Havana, Oscar Fernandez Mel."

The message from Cde Kossygin said: On behalf of the Soviet Government, the Peoples of the Soviet Union as well as on my own behalf I cordially congratulate you, the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the entire Guyanese people on the seventh anniversary of the proclamation of Republic. I note with satisfaction that the relations of friendship and co-operation taking shape between our two peoples have good prospects."

"I wish the people and the Government of Guyana further success in building a new life and in strengthening the country's political and economic independence."

.....  
From Manes Manescu Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania:

"On the National Day of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana I am extending my congratulations and good wishes for your personal happiness for the progress and prosperity of the Guyanese people."

.....  
From Lubomir Strougal Prime Minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic:

"On the occasion of the National Day of your country please accept my most sincere congratulations, together with wishes of many successes in your responsible work for the benefit of further development of Guyana and the welfare of its people."

.....  
Five Guyanese Teachers of the Spanish Language will leave for Caracas on Saturday according to a release from the Venezuelan Embassy.

They are Yvonne Harris (St. Rose's High School), Cheryl Paul (Ara Roper Secondary School), Tribewan Singh (Indian Education Trust School), Pranchand Shyam-Sooder (Line Path Secondary School) and Denny Chibbar (Bygonne Multilateral School). This is the fourth batch of

## 5 teachers for Venezuela

teachers to take use of the annual scholarship which is sponsored by the Government of Venezuela according to a release from the Venezuelan Embassy.

They are Yvonne Harris (St. Rose's High School), Cheryl Paul (Ara Roper Secondary School), Tribewan Singh (Indian Education Trust School), Pranchand Shyam-Sooder (Line Path Secondary School) and Denny Chibbar (Bygonne Multilateral School). This is the fourth batch of

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D-3-A-17

# Steps to improve fire service...

Stories by George Baird

Steps have been taken to increase the mobilisation of the Fire and Ambulance Service decentralise it and to

make people more fire-conscious to prevent the increasing spate of fires resulting in tremendous loss. Minister of Home Affairs Vibert Mingo gave the assurance in Parliament last night when the House was asked to approve expenditure totalling \$1,577,249 for Fire Protection Services.

No. 96 THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1977 10 CENTS.

## National Committee to make in-depth study

# Govt to launch anti-crime drive

CABINET has appointed a National Committee to make an in-depth study of crime generally. It came out of the Government's concern about crime and the Committee would look into the Police handling of crime, mount an anti-crime campaign and investigate the possibility of getting the support of Courts to inflict heavier penalties for crimes of violence and fraud.

The Committee would also try to mobilise people to help grapple with the crime problem although a special campaign to improve the relationship between the Police and the public has already shown results.

All this information was given in Parliament last night by Home Affairs Minister Vibert Mingo when replying to Opposition observations and queries about the crime situation in the country.

The Minister also



CDE VIBERT MINGO

disclosed that a special committee had been named to look into the so-called "white collar" crimes and this committee is now busy at work in certain government departments and corporations.

Cde. Mingo declined to name the Members of the Committee. He was replying to People's Progressive Party member Clinton Collymore who asked about reports of fraud and theft at the Guyana Defence Force, the Guyana National Service and Government corporations including Guyana Marketing Corporation.

He admitted that the Police Force was short of staff and pointed out that efforts were being made to recruit more people.

Replying to United Force Leader Feldeen Singh, the Minister said there were very few vacancies, however, in the top echelons of the Force. Some supplementary posts were being abolished and in other cases some holders of posts were being absorbed into the regular establishment.

In the case of the Scientific Officer, the Minister said (without naming him) that the officer is a Guyanese who was sent abroad to improve his knowledge but had unfortunately decided to remain overseas.

**FARMERS**  
Cde. Collymore had called for special Police assistance to farmers and the Minister said the Police should always be willing to help farmers but he added that any cases where help had been refused it should be reported to him for action.

Parliament eventually passed the amount of \$18,259.00 for the Police Department.

D-3-E-18

# CALL TO ABOLISH DEATH PENALTY

An Opposition Member of Parliament last night called for the abolition of capital punishment in this country when Parliament engaged in a full-scale debate on the Prisons Department.

"Scrap the gallows and end the death penalty," Cde. Clinton Collymore urged when he addressed the House. He also asked the Minister how many people were awaiting execution and whether it was not time for legislation to be passed to abolish capital punishment.

Home Affairs Minister Vibert Mingo, replying, disclosed that there had been no hanging in Guyana since March 3, 1975 and said while capital punishment had not been abolished, there was a great case and cases are taken to the gallows. He said the executioner only gets a small retainer fee and that is why the provision of only a token \$1 was being made.

Cde. Collymore also disclosed that the prisons were burning at the seams and asked if there were plans to build a new prison or "repair that eye sore in Camp Street."

**INDUSTRIES**  
The Minister said that while there was accommodation for 1,150 prisoners only 842 were there on January 3, with 283 at Camp Street, 275 at Marzani, 128 in New Amsterdam and 336 at Geart.

Cde. Collymore also asked about prison industries which he disclosed the majority of discharged prisoners when they came back to Guyana were unemployed. He also asked if the Government was going to set up a chain-link factory, light agricultural tools, mats and blinds and indulged in joinery, carpentry, tailoring, rice planting and a viable pig industry which sold pigs and pork valued \$182,569 at

market price. Cde. Mingo said it was difficult to attract teachers from the Ministry of Education and that the Government was doing its best to fill the vacancies but this was being connected in order to have the vacancies for tutors, instructors and teachers filled.

There was also a vacancy for a driver mechanic and a prison trade instructor and efforts were being made to fill them, the Minister told the House.

Mr. Feldeen Singh said the provision for electricity was not enough and it was unfair to cut back on prisons electricity when the Police did not suffer any cut.

Generally, he said, government departments were the worst pay masters to corporations which, while expected to make surpluses, were forced to wait until supplementary provisions were voted before being paid light and telephone bills.

The Minister promised that prisons would do their best to stay within the voted provision.

Parliament later passed \$2,164,219 for the Prisons Department. Today MPs will continue to consider the Estimates for Home Affairs under Head 26.

The Minister said that only on Tuesday three new fire tenders arrived and another three were expected by month-end. Three weeks ago five new ambulances were received and by month-end the number of new ambulances would be eight.

The Fire Prevention Unit was strengthened from nine to 12 and efforts are being made to educate people generally about fire prevention with an intensified programme apart from Fire Prevention Week observation, he told the National Assembly.

The Minister explained that the unusual number of fire calls last year was due to the long dry season.

He was responding to questions from Opposition Members of Parliament, Clinton Collymore, Reepu Daman Persaud, Cyril Belgrave and Feldeen Singh who complained about the inadequacy of the fire service.

Cde. Collymore asked whether the Minister was satisfied with the Fire Service equipment, whether more would be purchased this year and in view of the "rash of fires" what emphasis was being placed on fire prevention.

**SEPARATION**  
Mr. Singh said the fire tenders were too old; Cde. Belgrave called for the separation of the Fire and Ambulance Service with probable Municipal control and Cde. Persaud called for the decentralisation of the Fire Service with the integration of the units formerly under the control of the sugar estates.

Minister Mingo said there were plans to decentralise the Fire Service in the city and other areas. Three regional fire stations at Anna Regina, Leonora and Corriverton were in varying stages of completion and equipment was on order to be sent to these areas.

He told Cde. Persaud that the responsibility for putting hydrants in Prashed Nagar was with the City Council but he would consider the suggestion made by Cde. Belgrave to separate the Fire and Ambulance Service again as was the case two decades ago. He said the Fire Service was experiencing some problems with the boat "Forbes B" but in the meantime they were getting assistance from the Guyana Defence Force and other sources.

Elaborating on the equipment being purchased for fire prevention, he pointed to new fire extinguishers in Parliament Chamber and said it was all part of the move to make buildings safer and fire drills were being conducted to make people more fire conscious.

# SECOND JUNIOR OFFICERS TRAINING COURSE

BY HERMAN SINGH

MINISTER of Home Affairs Vibert Mingo has said that the Police Force is vital to national development and so the Police Training School must be conscious of its role to function in line with the national development effort and prepare members of the Force to contribute and adjust themselves to the changing circumstances of Guyana.

Cde. Mingo who was declaring open the second Junior Officers Training Course at Eve Leary also put forward a number of suggestions for the development of the Force.

He told the participants that they have a positive role to play in the development of the Force and that they must set an example of sterling performance for others to follow.

Further, he said, their great task is to participate in the rapid process of development in Guyana.

There must be changes in their attitudes if the national objectives are to be fulfilled.

They must show greater effort so that law and order could be maintained in the communities.

Their first loyalty is to the Police Force.

They should be able to identify what are the factors militating against improvement in the force.

Efforts must be made to find solutions that hinder their work.

And they must give unselfish service to their country at all times.

Cde. Mingo said that criminality was a burning question in Guyana today, and urged the participants to give consideration to measures that could strengthen the effectiveness of the Force, how more young people could be attracted to join the Force, how there could be more community participation to combat crime, what practical measures could be taken to improve police-public relations, and what could be done to give the people confidence to walk the streets in comfort.

Cde. Mingo also touched on the relevance of training officers at home and the educational, economic and other advantages of doing so in this regard he quoted from the speech made by Prime Minister Forbes Burnham, when he declared opened the first Junior Officers course

## Policemen have vital role to play in development of nation, says Minister

of the Force is to be improved then relevant training has to be provided and members of the Force must become aware of the benefits to be derived from improved training and make fullest use of the facilities which have been offered there", he said.

Welcoming the Minister, Police Commissioner Henry Fraser stressed the need for members of the Force to develop professional competence in order to enrich the quality of the service which they have pledged to give to the citizens of Guyana.

He also touched on the role of women in the Force and added that although they were a small band they had been making a valuable contribution.

After noting that the course would cover a wide area of subjects, he further expressed the view that what would be taught would contribute to a better understanding among policemen.

Cde. Fraser also stressed that positive efforts would be made to inculcate in participants the importance of certain leadership qualities, professional competence, and the relevance of socialist thought and morality.

He exhorted the participants to take their studies seriously. In this way they would merit the presence of those who have been recruited from within and outside the Force to lecture to them, he said.

Participants in the three-month courses are drawn from the Police Force, the People's Army, the Prison Services, the Guyana National Service, the Guyana Fire Service, the City Constabulary and the Guybau Constabulary.

Cde. Fraser said he was sure that they would be able to make a good contribution to the course.

He said that the Force had

which in the course of time will bring about the development and other improvements in the Force", he said.

Cde. Fraser, however, recognised that there were

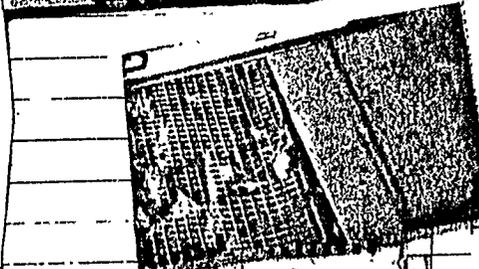
major difficulties in such a development because of the lack of a systematic body of knowledge.

He suggested that the knowledge and skill that were available within the Force

should be properly put together in a systematic way. But, he added, if this knowledge was to be effectively used there must be serious involvement and not just a mechanical approach.



Cde. Mingo arrives for the opening of the course. From left are Commissioner of Police Henry Fraser, Asst. Commissioner Basil Glasgow and Deputy Commissioner Lloyd Barker.



**Mingo to open second junior police officer's course**  
Minister on our present administrative structure, will be placed on the transitional period from colonialism to a socialist society, foreign policy, especially Guyana's role in the Non-Aligned Movement, Caricom, the United Nations and other international organisations. Students will be expected to study leadership styles of outstanding leaders and to community workers in the country. Lecturers will be drawn from the University of Guyana, Ministers and Corporators, the Judiciary and other members of the legal profession, Teachers Training College, Senior Services and persons in private business.

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## Mingo, Jack share duties

MINISTER of Home Affairs, Cde Vibert Mingo, is performing the duties of Minister of Education and Social Development in the absence of Minister Cecilene Baird who left the country yesterday on official business.

Meanwhile, the President has also named Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Cde Hubert Jack, to perform the duties of Foreign Affairs and Justice Minister for Cde. Fred Wills who is also abroad on official business.

Cdes Wills and Baird are expected back in the country on March 14 and 23 respectively.

P-E-21

# We must be more efficient, says Min.

MINISTER of Labour Winslow Carrington yesterday morning told participants at a seminar for members of the Printing Industry and Allied Workers' Union, that the sacrifices which "we in Guyana are at present making, and the economic stringencies being experienced, are not only plaguing Guyana but are also taking place in other parts of the world".

The Labour Minister was delivering the opening address at Transport House while deputising for the Economic Development Minister, Cde. Desmond Hoyte, who was unavoidably absent.

He said that even the developed countries of the world were not self-sufficient, much less a developing country like Guyana.

Cde. Carrington said that it

was difficult for Guyana to escape the economic difficulties of the world, and noted that it was only by being more productive and efficient that "we can pull ourselves out of our present situation".

Pointing out the importance of the elimination of waste in Guyana, the Minister emphasised the importance of the mobilisation of workers so as to stop the economic situation from worsening.

Recalling the role of the trade union movement in the past and comparing it with its present role, Cde. Carrington emphasised the greater need to educate the trade union leaders. He said that today the trade union movement must be concerned with the

society as a whole, as well as the political and economic situation.

Cde. Carrington informed participants of the merits of purchasing National Defence Savings Bonds.

The four-day seminar which was sponsored by the Workers' Education Unit of the Ministry of Labour in collaboration with the Printing Industry and the Allied Workers' Union, has as its theme: "Towards Improving the System of Industrial Relations and the Involvement of Workers in the Decision Making Process".

Cde. Viola Burnham is scheduled to deliver the closing address.



MINISTER of Health, Dr. Oliver Harper (at right) is pictured here greeting Mr. Tom Coles, a Medex personnel from the University of Hawaii, at the Ministry of Health, yesterday. At Centre is Cde. Melissa Humphrey, Administrator of the Medex programme in Guyana.

## Medex Scheme to be launched Fri.

THE Ministry of Health is hoping to launch its MEDEX scheme on Friday, to train personnel for its health programme which is planned to put greater emphasis on the improvement of the

country's rural health services.

The Medex Scheme is being undertaken with assistance from the International Development Research Centre in Canada.

The Centre for the training of local personnel for the scheme will be housed in the building which was formerly the Carib Hotel at Lislandsal, on the East Coast of Demerara.

The Centre will be manned by a team of Guyanese who have recently completed a three-month training programme at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu.

Dr. Frank Williams has already been named Director of the programme while Cde. Melissa Humphrey will serve as the administrator.

And, in preparation for the launching of the programme later this week, Mr. Tom Coles, of the University of Hawaii, arrived in the country over the weekend to hold discussions with officials of the Ministry of Health and to witness the launching ceremonies.

Georgetown, Telephone 63243

D-3-G-2



# Export increases expected in '77

THE Companies and Corporations within each group fall under the control of an Executive Chairman who is responsible for setting the policy framework within which the Corporations and Companies under his control must operate.

It is estimated that for 1976 the Public Corporations and Companies as a group will earn a surplus on current account

before tax of just over \$40.0 mn. On the other hand there was an increase in net capital employed from the 1975 level of \$290 mn. to \$473.6 mn. at the end of 1976.

As is to be expected Cde. Speaker, the largest surpluses this year have accrued within Trading Groups I and II taken as a whole, with Guyana Stores projecting a surplus of some \$8 mn., External

## The 1977 Budget Statement: Sixth Instalment

Trade Bureau \$7.2 mn., Guyana National Trading Corporation \$4 mn., Guyana Gajraj \$2.8 mn. and Demerara Sugar Terminals approximately \$2 mn.

However, surpluses by themselves do not reveal the full extent of the involvement of the Public Corporations and Companies in the economic activity of this country. It is for this reason that I shall refer briefly to the gross trading revenues of the Public Corporations and Companies. It is estimated that in 1976 the group as a whole will have earned gross trading revenues amounting to some \$445.0 mn. an increase of 82.0 per cent over 1975.

For the year ahead Cde. Speaker, it is anticipated that the trading results in 1976 will be significantly

improved upon as the demand situation for the output of the Corporations - electricity, telephone, stockfeed - is expected to be fairly buoyant.

### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

Comrade Speaker, I would wish now to mention a few important aspects of performance of the Financial Institutions within the public sector for the year 1976.

This year in July has seen the addition of the Guyana Co-operative Insurance Service to the Institutions. The Service has only been engaged in non life insurance but will start its life insurance section early in 1977. It is estimated that for the seven months in 1976 the Service would receive

premiums of \$2.2 mn., and for 1977 premiums of \$8.7 mn.

The Guyana Co-operative Mortgage Finance Bank lent \$5.6 mn. for housing - \$0.2 mn. for self-help housing, \$1.3 mn. for low income housing and \$4.1 mn. for middle income housing.

The Guyana National Co-operative Bank Trust Company Limited also lent \$2.2 mn. during 1976 for mortgages. The Trust Company took over the administration of the Bookers Guyana Pensions Scheme with assets of just over \$30 mn. during May, 1976.

In 1976, Cde. Speaker, the Guyana Agricultural Co-operative Bank lent \$6.5 mn. to farmers engaged in a wide range of agricultural activities including rice farming (\$1.5 mn.), fishing, logging, and saw-milling, pig rearing and poultry rearing. From December, 1976, the Bank assumed responsibility for the livestock project.

The Guyana National Co-operative Bank increased its Deposits - savings, time and demand - by \$15.6 mn. and its outstanding loans and advances by \$32.2 mn. It is expected that the Bank will earn an operating surplus of over \$1 mn.

### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE - 1977

Cde. Speaker, I now turn my attention to 1977 expenditure and Revenue proposals. Much will depend on the performance of our export sector and the economy as a whole.

The earnings from our major exports i.e. sugar, rice and bauxite are expected to increase in 1977 slightly over 17.0 per cent above the 1976 level. Bauxite which contributed some \$276 mn. in 1976 in foreign exchange earnings is now expected to earn over \$377 mn. In foreign exchange in 1977. Rice which in 1976 grossed some \$73 mn. is now expected to earn about \$80.00 mn. in 1977.

Sugar, Cde. Speaker, is forecast to show a slight decline in earnings in 1977. The industry is expected to earn some \$212.0 mn. in foreign exchange in 1977, compared with \$219 mn. in 1976. Total export earnings from all productive sectors are expected to increase from \$730 mn. to \$832.0 mn. In 1977. Gross Domestic Product at current market prices is projected to rise by 4 per cent from \$1,149.0 mn. in 1976 to \$1190 mn. in 1977. This forecast is predicted upon assumptions of favourable weather conditions, reasonably peaceful industrial relations and improved price for bauxite and related products, in particular calcined bauxite.

Even if all the assumptions proved correct, it would also be reasonable to expect successive increases in the prices of goods the country must import. The OPEC countries have recently announced price increases for oil. If precedence is followed, this will result in a more than proportionate increase in the price of capital and other goods which must be imported. In any case many industrialised countries are still projecting significant levels of inflation which in

our experience is inevitably passed on to us through imports.

However, Cde. Speaker given the assumption I have just made with respect to the weather and industrial relations, the economy will resume its growth in income, though such growth is not expected to be very substantial.

### CURRENT REVENUE

Cde. Speaker, it is in the light of these expectations that the budgetary outlays are being proposed. Taking into account the level of economic activity and our assumptions on export and import prices for 1977, current revenue from all sources is estimated at \$411.5 mn.

Import duties and consumption taxes are estimated at \$94 mn. - \$6 mn. less than expected for 1976 - mainly because a conscious effort will be made to reduce the level of non-essential imports. Imports for domestic manufacture, and capital goods such as machinery and spare parts for machinery, will not be disturbed. In any case importation of machinery and industrial vehicles has been particularly heavy in 1976. For 1977 the emphasis will be concentrated more on the more efficient use and deployment of the equipment and their proper maintenance and less on our success in the total supply of them.

But on the other hand, the level of imports of cars will however be substantially reduced from the high import bill of \$24 mn. in 1976. Excise duties are estimated to yield \$23 mn. - the same level as in 1976. On the other hand, our prospects for sugar prices, as explained earlier, are still uncertain therefore the sugar levy is not projected to yield much more than they did in 1976.

Income taxes are estimated at \$106 mn. - \$5.4 mn. less than 1976 - due mainly to a lower level of arrears expected. With the Post Office becoming a Public Corporation as from 1st January, 1977, revenue from the sale of revenue stamps is estimated at \$1.0 mn. National Service is expected to provide about \$1.2 mn. in revenue.

Distributed surpluses from Public Corporations and Government Companies are estimated to provide \$59.6 mn. - \$7.4 mn. from the Bank of Guyana and, to meet nationalisation payments, \$9.4 mn. from Guybau, \$2.0 mn. from Barmine, \$1.8 mn. from the former Jessels Group, \$1.5 mn. from the Guyana National Engineering Corporation, and approximately \$9.0 mn. from the former Booker Group of Companies. It is also expected that the Guystac Group of Companies would provide, in addition, at least \$25.0 mn. in dividends to the Treasury.

The sum of \$30 mn. has been estimated for Defence Bonds. As members are aware the introduction of the Bonds was in accordance with an agreement with the Trades Union Congress which, along with other organisations, such as the

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[FROM PAGE 10]

People's National Congress, the People's Progressive Party, the Georgetown and New Amsterdam Chamber of Commerce, the Consultative Association of Guyanese Industries and the Guyana Association of Local Authorities, will be mobilising support for the purchase of these bonds. The Trades Union Congress felt that every Guyanese should be concerned with the defence of his country and should render some tangible contribution to show the concern.

The Bonds will be fixed date for ten years, transferable and registered in denominations of \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 bearing interest at 3 1/2 per cent per annum tax free.

I would re-iterate what has been said elsewhere, that the purchase of these bonds is voluntary and that it is hoped that persons earning up to \$300 monthly would invest at least 7 per cent of their salary, and those earning more at least 10 per cent of their salary. Furthermore anyone - worker or not - may purchase any amount without limit.

If everyone contributes his fair share, the sum of \$30.0 mn. could be realised.

**CURRENT EXPENDITURE**

Given our current revenue projections, Cde. Speaker, every effort was made to restrict current expenditure to anticipated recurrent revenue. The objectives underlying the expenditure programme are first of all to avoid a current account deficit, at least of the magnitude experienced in 1976.

Secondly, it is intended that after taking the capital outlays into account, the overall deficit would be kept at a level that could be financed out of external long-term borrowing with little, if any, reliance on expanded bank credit to the Government. It must also be an aim of public sector financial policy to ensure that as far as practicable

there should be a reasonable improvement in our international reserves position.

The current expenditure for 1977 is projected at \$411.2 mn. - \$61.4 mn. less than the revised estimate for 1976, and marginally - (\$0.3 mn.) - less than current revenue. The main reductions occur under Public Debt (\$2.6 mn.) and other charges (\$77.2 mn.).

The reduction in the Public Debt is mainly because in 1976 deferred payment of \$25.3 mn. net of withholding tax had to be made to Alcan for Guybau, while in 1977 the ordinary annual net instalment of \$7.2 mn. will be payable. On the other hand, we have to pay in 1977 the first instalments for the former Booker group of companies (\$8.0 mn.) and for West Indian Oil (\$0.1 mn.), and increased instalments of Eurodollar borrowing amounting to (\$8.6 mn.) now that the moratorium on capital payments has expired.

The reduction under Other Charges results mainly from the reduction in subsidies of the order of \$22.8 mn. to which I will make more detailed reference later.

There were also some cuts in the level of defence expenditure and some \$7.5 mn. from the Ministry of National Development; \$40.3 mn. was pruned from the Ministry of Works and Housing (Works). There are also smaller reductions throughout the service which reflect the decision that 1977 must be a year of some austerity, and accordingly, that there should be efficiency in expenditure.

There is an increase of \$18.4 mn. under personal emoluments due mainly to an increase of \$10.3 mn. under Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools. This increased level of expenditure in education reflects the decision of the

Government that the implementation of a policy of free education for all and at all levels, must continue to be accorded top priority. Hospital and dispensaries have also had their allocations increased by something in the region of \$1.4 mn.

**CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 1977**

Let me turn now, Comrade Speaker, to the Government's proposed capital programme for 1977. Earlier in my presentation I made references to the constraints, external and internal, likely to be placed upon our development efforts in 1977. The rapid pace of development in 1976 began towards the end of the year to reveal certain other constraints. For example skilled and semi-skilled manpower became relatively short in supply and the demand for certain items of building materials exceeded supply.

This indicated that for the ensuing year the level of development activity in certain sectors should be geared down while other sectors are permitted to maintain or expand activities in order to permit a more efficient level of implementation of existing projects. In addition, as I indicated earlier the 1972-76 Development Plan is to be rolled over for one year, to give adequate time for the preparation of the new five year plan.

In 1977, Cde. Speaker, it is the intention of the Government to put increased emphasis on greater productivity and production particularly in Agriculture and in Forestry. To this end the road programme for 1977 will concentrate heavily on the construction of access and feeder roads in the agricultural areas in order to provide greater accessibility to and from farms for transporting inputs and produce. The sum involved for this

purpose in 1977 will be in excess of \$6.6 mn. and some 43 miles of farm-to-market roads will be constructed.

At Wash Clothes-Cook Dam 9 miles of road will be constructed at an estimated cost of \$1 mn. to serve between 1200 and 1500 acres of rice lands. In the Rosignol-Zeelust area an estimated sum of \$ 1/4 mn. will be spent to bring 15 miles of road to all weather status in rice producing area. In the Woodley Park-Bath-Hopetown areas approximately 12 miles of road will be upgraded at an estimated cost of \$1. mn. The extension of the Ithaca Road to Ross Field is expected to cost some \$1.6 mn.

In addition, it is expected that a further sum of \$4.5 mn. will be available from the Caribbean Development Bank in the form of a loan to assist in the construction of an additional 43 miles of feeder roads. These include feeder roads at Anna Regina (4) miles, Ruby Dam, West Demerara (3.5 miles); De Hoop, East Coast Demerara (1.8 miles); Burma Mill to Mahaica (3.0 miles); Hubu-Maripa (3.5 miles); Burma Mill to Mahaicony (2.1 miles); Onverwagt (8.3 miles); Fyriah (1 mile); Port Mowant (13.4 miles); and No. 72 Dam, Corentyne (3.7 miles).

The Upper Mazaruni Road will absorb capital expenditure next year totalling \$10 mn. This road it is well known is intended to facilitate development of the Hydropower project as well as to provide easy and ready access to our vast forestry and other resources.

Apart from the \$1.6 mn. I have specifically identified there is a further sum of \$7.7 mn. assigned to other development works to be undertaken by the Ministry of Works and Housing (Works).

With respect to

Agriculture, it is anticipated that in 1977 productive projects will be accorded the highest priority. The Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary Scheme is one such and \$4 mn. is earmarked to be spent on it in 1977. When this area is finally developed, it is expected to bring into productive use approximately 266,000 acres of very fertile lands.

This project has attracted the clear interest of the Inter-American Development Bank for the purpose of financing on a very substantial scale. The Tapakuma Irrigation Scheme (\$5.5 mn.), the Livestock Development Project (\$2.6 mn.) and sea and river defence (\$2 mn.), have also been given high priority in 1977. These projects form part of the total projected capital expenditure of \$22.8 mn. to be spent in the agricultural sector next year.

Industrial development, Cde. Speaker, is another area which in 1977, will be accorded high priority. It is estimated that some \$17.6 mn. will be spent for this purpose next year. The enterprises responsible for timber and forestry development will be provided a sum of \$3.6 mn. for the purpose of increasing production in this sector. An additional sum of \$1 mn. will be spent on the development of the Demerara Fish Port Complex. The Glass Factory will absorb a further \$2.3 mn., the Textile Mill \$1.5 mn., Bicycle Plant \$0.5 mn. and the Small Industries Corporation will be provided with \$2.5 mn. for the promotion of small industries.

Cde. Speaker, whilst much emphasis will be placed on increased productivity and production in 1977, I wish to indicate that social services such as health and education will continue to be treated as high priority development services. A capital provision

of \$4.0 mn. has been made for health in 1977 as against \$2.5 mn. spent in 1976, an increase of 60 per cent.

The capital expenditure on education in 1977 is proposed at \$6.0 mn. and while it is less than the \$11.0 mn. spent in 1976, the difference however is largely related to higher initial cost incurred in 1976 for the acquisition of certain schools as part of the exercise to bring the educational system fully under public control.

Finally, as I have remarked earlier, the security of the country must continue to be of paramount importance since the development of any country assumes, first of all, its existence. It is for this reason that the capital expenditure on defence is projected at \$8.3 mn. in 1977. This is just over 6 per cent of the total capital expenditure proposed for next year.

The total capital programme for 1977 is expected to cost \$134.8 mn. and this is a clear indication by the Government of its realism in the present circumstances.

[CONTINUED TOMORROW]

D-3-H-7(10)

# Govt raps PPP man for attack on Audit Chief Minister affirms confidence in officer's integrity



CDE. FRANK HOPE

The government has formally repped People's Progressive Party frontbencher Narbada Persaud for recent allegations which he made in Parliament on the Director of Audit.

In a statement in the National Assembly yesterday, Finance Minister Frank Hope said the government deplored the attack on the Director of Audit, and affirmed its unqualified confidence in the officer's integrity, competence and dedication.

The Minister's statement is as follows:

During his intervention in the debate on the Second Reading of the Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Bill, 1976, the Hon. Member Cde. Narbada Persaud, used the occasion to make certain statements defamatory of the Director of Audit.

The gravamen of his allegation was that the Director of Audit refused to investigate certain alleged irregularities on the ground that "political persons" were involved.

The inference was that the Director of Audit was guilty of grave dereliction of his duty and was in breach of his oath of office. As is usual, when Members of the Opposition use the absolute privilege of this Honourable House to defame public servants, the Honourable Member did not supply particulars of time, place,

circumstances and other details in support of so serious an allegation. He merely contented himself with a general allegation.

In winding up the debate the Hon. Member Cde. Desmond Hoyte stigmatised the allegation by the Hon. Member of the Opposition as "scurrilous", affirmed the Government's confidence in the competence and integrity of the Director of Audit and requested the Hon. Member to have either the grace to withdraw the allegation or the courage to repeat it outside the precincts of this Honourable House so that the Director of Audit could exercise his right as a citizen to vindicate his character in the courts of law. In the latter event, the Hon. Member would of course have an opportunity to prove the truth of his allegation.

As was perhaps to be expected, the Hon. Member has not availed himself of either alternative offered him.

In the circumstances, the Government wishes to make a formal statement on this matter for the records of this Honourable House and for the reassurance of members of the public service of this country.

The Government deplores the unwarranted attack by the Hon. Member on the distinguished and dedicated public officer. The attack was not only in breach of the Standing Orders of this Honourable House but violated the norms of fairness by which Members ought to be guided when making references, in the course of debates, to public officials who do not have a right of reply and who are precluded by the absolute privilege of this House from availing themselves of legal redress.

The Government rejects absolutely as being false, malicious and unfounded, the gross slander uttered against

the Director of Audit by the Hon. Member Cde. Narbada Persaud.

The Government wishes to affirm publicly its unqualified confidence in the integrity, competence and dedication of the Director of Audit.

It is a matter of regret that the Hon. Member should have demonstrated so early

in his parliamentary career the meagreness of his moral fibre. By his action, the Hon. Member, Cde. Narbada Persaud, has perhaps done irreparable harm to his own integrity, but it is the Government's view that there is always an opportunity for the Hon. Member to redeem himself by a suitable apology.

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# Parliament approves \$546 million austerity budget

THE National Assembly last evening approved the \$546 million austerity budget after five days of general debate and seven days of searching examination in the Committee of Supply.

The budget, tabled by Finance Minister Frank Hope on December 30, calls for

current expenditure of \$411.2 million and capital expenditure of \$134.8 million.

With current revenue projected at \$411.5 million and capital inflows at \$62.2 million, the budget anticipates a deficit of \$72.3 million, which will be recorded entirely on the capital account.

This year's debate provided the opportunity for the People's Progressive Party to engage the ruling People's Party's National Congress in public dialogue on official policies for much of this decade so far.

It was the first occasion the PPP has taken part in a debate on a budget since the 1973 estimates were presented at the end of 1972. The PPP re-entered Parliament only in May last year following the 1973 elections.

The Committee of Supply, comprising the whole of Parliament, wound up its work with a probe into the Home Affairs Ministry and the Finance Ministry.

## CONSTITUTION

Continuing the Home Affairs discussions from the previous night, Minister Vibert Mingo declined to be drawn into a debate with the

PPP's Clinton Collymore on whether a new Constitution would be in effect before the next general elections, the virtues of having an "all-party" committee to draft the new Constitution, and whether new regulations would be issued for the elections.

"These are questions which neither I nor Cde. Collymore can answer. These are questions for the bigger boys", the Minister quipped.

Cde. Mingo announced that the Prime Minister has given a commitment to the PPP that another national registration exercise will be carried out this year, to cover those who might have been missed in the registration last year.

He rejected a charge by Cde. Collymore that a recent Registration Bill was intended to "streamline the electoral rigging machinery overseas".

The PPP spokesman stated that as far as his party was concerned, Guyanese who migrated, did not have any moral right to dictate the kind of government which the country should have.

Minister Mingo further indicated, in answer to queries from Mr. Feilden Singh (UF) that steps are being taken to amend the law to allow for corrections to mistakes in birth certificates to be done simply and at less cost, and that certificates are being shortened so as to refer specifically to the person registered and not parents, and so to "remove such stigma as illegitimacy".

On another matter, he said the government would buy the Demerara Rowing Club for use by the Marine Police.

On the Finance Ministry, Minister Frank Hope said that delays in presenting reports by the Director of Audit were due to a hold-up in programming of the computer which processed the data from the Ministries.

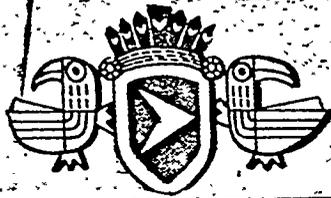
He said the programmer went on a course of advanced training and had now returned. The last report to reach the Director of Audit was for 1970, and this would be completed in another three months. The Report for 1969 would be tabled "very soon".

The delay in presentation of the reports was severely criticised by the Opposition in the general debate, and again by Cde. Narbada Persaud (PPP) and Mr. Singh yesterday.

The Finance Minister also stated that no firm decision has yet been taken on how the financial sector should be reorganised; that the role of the Crown Agents in handling Sinking Funds would be reduced or removed by proposed new law, and fewer overseas visits, involving smaller delegations, would be approved this year.

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# Guyana Chronicle



THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1977

12 CENTS

## DOCTORS NOT ANGELS — DON'T PAY FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT

HEALTH MINISTER, Dr. Oliver Harper, last evening in Parliament, looked at the other side of the money-grabbing-doctors issue and sharply rebuked people who offer payment for special attention from the medical service.

BY MOHAMED HAMALUDIN

In an obvious follow-up to earlier comments on the matter, the Minister said so long as people continued to encourage the existing system, so long would it flourish.

He said the doctors were not angels, but it was not only they who needed to change their attitudes. He told of a case which came to his attention of a family giving a doctor a two-carat diamond for special treatment.

He explained that the matter was reported to him only because the doctor apparently failed to live up to his end of the bargain. But had he done so, nothing would have been heard about it.

Cde. Harper was at the

time answering a series of Opposition queries on the provisions for his Ministry as the Committee of Supply continued to probe the 1977 Estimates.

The PPP's Janet Jagan hit at the shortage of doctors, specialists and other medical personnel and questioned the government's claim to free medical services.

Earlier, in the general debate, she had criticised the emphasis on fees, and her remarks were supported by Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Ptolemy Reid and Dr. Harper.

The Health Minister, however, explained yesterday that training more doctors only ensured better medical service in the urban areas, and not in the rural areas since the doctors preferred the cities where they could receive big fees.

He said the government's strategy was two-fold: to develop a large corps of middle-level medical personnel, and, to train future doctors in countries where there is greater community orientation.

He acknowledged that the medical manpower shortage "is real," adding "We have to face up to it and do our best and correct it."

But he declared that the country had to face the fact that its medical services comprised those who supported socialism and those who did not, with the latter being in the majority, hence socialist-oriented programmes of the govern-

ment did not find favour with all.

Minister Harper stated that a similar situation arose in Cuba, after the revolution there, and a compromise had to be reached in which doctors were allowed private practice.

He said he would like to see all private practice removed from Guyana's medical service, but the country had to live with a compromise situation, as Cuba did, until it had produced enough community-oriented doctors.

The Minister said the priorities for health were on more effective primary health care, and the development of adequate health manpower, and to achieve these objectives, a supernumerary Permanent Secretary was appointed to spearhead a project leading to the establishment of a teaching hospital at Turkeyen.

The officer is understood to be Cde. George Williams, and Minister Harper explained that the hospital would be set up with assistance from the Inter-American Development Bank and would be the apex, in five years, of the training programme for health personnel.

He further explained that the United Nations Development Programme was financing five centres in the Caribbean for training allied health personnel, located in Guyana, Barbados,

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FROM PAGE 1

# DOCTORS

Jamaica, Nassau (Bahamas) and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Guyana centre was being set up as a Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Guyana, and it could be expanded later to include training of doctors and dentists, the Minister said.

Cde. Harper said he was unaware of a report, which acting Opposition Leader Boycie Ramkarran raised, that parents had been made to pay for immunisation of their children at the Buxton Health Centre late last year. He asked Cde. Ramkarran for further details, since, he said the report surprised him because such immunisation had been free for two generations.

He also stated that he was unaware of any shortage of the "triple vaccine" for immunisation of children, a matter raised by Mrs. Elinor Da Silva (UF).

Dr. Harper stoutly defended the work of the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI). He said a CFNI consultant was now in Guyana helping to improve the training of nutrition workers for the rural areas, and that other benefits included CFNI research into Guyana's dietary needs leading to the emphasis on legumes production.

In response to a suggestion from Mrs. Jagan that more could be done by the Health Education Unit and that the Unit needed more "creative" ideas, Cde. Harper said the country's health education programme was the best in the Caribbean and was the only one in the region to produce a health education manual.

On the shortage of anaesthetists, he explained that he attempted, a few years ago, to introduce nursing anaesthetists, but this was opposed particularly by medical associations in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, but Guyana had not given up the idea.

According to him, one reason for the objection was the fact that the insurance policy which doctors carried required that a full-time and fully trained anaesthetist be present when surgical operations take place.

On another point, he said there was a "cultural problem" in obtaining persons to study psychiatry since people tended to feel something was wrong with anyone who went into the psychiatric ward.

At the same time, he praised the work being done by psychiatric social workers, declaring that there was a tendency to underestimate the quality of their work because they did not have degrees.

On the issue of the Mahaica Hospital, the Minister said Guyana could eradicate leprosy "with a determined thrust", and part of this was to de-emphasise the institutionalisation of patients and allow for more "outreach programmes". He hailed the work of Dr. Patricia Rose at the hospital.

On the question of testing of locally produced foods, the Minister explained that there was a dual system in that the town councils held responsibility for the municipalities, while the Ministry did so for the rest of the country. He hinted at legislation to give the Ministry "over-riding" powers over the municipalities in this respect.

## HOSPITAL

Dealing with the Palms, the Minister told Cde. Cyril Belgrave (PPP) that a change in the name would not in itself make it a hospital. Cde. Belgrave had referred to previous remarks by Minister of Labour Winslow Carrington that the Palms was being converted into a geriatric hospital. (See Centre Pages).

Parliament started on the Home Affairs Ministry 25 minutes before the dinner suspension was taken. In answer to a suggestion from Cde. Belgrave that a \$20,000 provision for Republic celebrations be axed in the interest of austerity, Minister Vibert Mingo replied that the Republic anniversary was a national occasion and one of significance enough to be commemorated.

The Minister told Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud (PPP) that the Elections Commission sat four times yearly, and only last week had a meeting. In response to a suggestion from Cde. Persaud that "this sinecure" be scrapped, both the Minister and Speaker Sese Narain reminded that the Commission was set up by the Constitution.

In answer to a call from the PPP frontbencher to take steps to amend the Constitution, the Minister said: "You opposed it. You take the initiative."

D-3-I-10

## Minister takes control of Nursing Council

# MOVE IS AIMED AT DEFEATING 'ELITISTS'

HEALTH MINISTER, Dr. Oliver Harper told Parliament yesterday that the government found it necessary to propose the reconstitution of the General Nursing Council because it had fallen into the hands of "a group of elitists" who were frustrating national policy towards training of health personnel.

The Minister's statement came as he piloted the Nurses and Midwives (Amendment) Bill which was passed by a majority of 21 to 13 after nearly two hours of heated debate.

PPP frontbencher, Reepu Daman Persaud, vowed that the PPP would repeal the Bill if it became the Government.

The measure removes the autonomy of the Council and brings it under the authority of the Minister who is now empowered to give it general policy direction.

Should the Council fail to carry out such direction, the Minister now has the power to vary or modify any of its



DR. MONTY HARPER

decisions, or to substitute his decision.

Minister Harper said the original legislation (dating back to the 1950's) was passed at a time when there was a different perspective and a different sense of urgency on the question of training of nurses and midwives.

He explained that the Bill was intended to bring the Council in line with National policy, provide for regional representation, and allow for a majority of its membership to be drawn from among

By Mohamed Hamaludin

nurses and midwives.

The membership will now be 15, of which six persons will be nominated by the Minister. Cde. Harper said this was necessary to allow the Minister "flexibility" in choosing members since modern concept of health management was that the health team working for the same objectives should be drawn from various disciplines.

The Opposition, however, expressed alarm at the power being given to the Health Minister under the Bill, and PPP spokesman, Janet Jagan, claimed that its primary motive was to "politicise" the nursing profession. She further claimed that this would have serious repercussions on the profession later.

Both Mrs. Jagan and Mrs. Elinor DaSilva (UF) alleged that the Bill was the product of the Council's refusal to bow to "pressure" from the "big wigs" to admit for training as a nurse a woman who refused to take the entrance examination, who had no basic academic qualification for entry, and who had merely done a year's National Service.

"We are now going to convert the Nursing Council into another instrument for political patronage," she declared.

The two women Opposition MPs insisted that the standard and quality of nursing would drop since the profession required persons with a basic knowledge of sort in subjects and a dedication to the work.

Mrs. Jagan, who is a strong critic of National Service for women students, came out against this requirement for prospective nursing trainees. She claimed that because of it, the profession was not getting persons who would otherwise want to make nursing a career.

While she expressed "horror" at the Bill, Mrs Da



MRS. JANET JAGAN

Silva described the measure as one of the most "deplorable" she had ever seen. The UF chairman also contended that in essence, the Bill makes the Minister "the Council".

Cde. Persaud expressed concern at the fact that the Bill was being made retroactive to December 31, 1976, which, according to him, raised a question over its constitutionality. He said the retroactivity gave the Minister power to nullify from that date, the actions of a duly and legally constituted "responsible" body which had served well for several years, and this was "a betrayal of democracy."

Cde. Harper responded that the Opposition "is seeing bogeymen where bogeymen do not exist". He said the retroactivity was due to the fact that the three-year term of office of the members of the Council ended on December 31, 1976, and the Bill was merely "tidying up" in that sense.

He further stated that nursing assistants, who were supposed to take part in the election of members, were not being given the opportunity to do so.

He said he was surprised that "a socialist opposition" was objecting to "a socialist government" taking control of the administration and management of its nursing education programme.

"All this Bill attempts to do is to nationalise the Nursing

[TURN TO PAGE 2]



**MICHAEL** Anthony McCrimon came to Guyana to keep a wedding date with his schoolday sweetheart — after not seeing her for three years. The bride Mariene Mae Montrose, daughter of Health Minister Cds. Monty Harper and Mrs. Velma Harper, and the groom from USA, were married yesterday afternoon by Captain K.L. Graham, at the Salvation Army Citadel.

Guyana Chronicle, Monday, March 21, 1977.



A group of Guyana Developers were taken on a tour of Police Headquarters, Eve Leary, to acquaint them with certain aspects of the Force. Among the places they visited were the Traffic Department, Police Training School and the farm lots cultivated by cops in the compound. They later listened to a lecture by Deputy Police Commissioner Lloyd Becker.

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DEPUTY Commissioner Lloyd Barker is seen inspecting one of the items on display at the exhibition while PC 8954 Randolph Daniels (at left) and other members of the Police Force look on.

## Cops urged to spend spare time doing something meaningful

DEPUTY Commissioner of Police Cde. Lloyd Barker yesterday urged members of the Police Force to spend more of their spare time doing something meaningful for the benefit of their organisation.

The Deputy Commissioner was at the time declaring open a one-day cop-men exhibition which was sponsored by the

Police Force Function Committee.

Among some of the items on display were shoulder bags, bill folds, a brief case, school bags and a lunch kit. All the items were made by Const. 8954 Randolph Daniels.

Cde. Barker said that he considered the exhibition as one of great importance

and that it was "on par" with many other exhibitions held in Guyana.

The Deputy Commissioner concluded by wishing Cde. Daniels the best of luck and said that he hoped that other people would follow his example.

Also present at the exhibition were members of the Police Force and the public.

# Bid to channel youth into nation building...

A NEW move to harness the energies of youth and channel them into nation-building and community work has been launched — this time by the Guyana Police Force.

The Police move in this new area is known as 'Operation Youth Club' which involves the setting up of an umbrella administrative organisation to control all youth clubs being established by the lawmen in every district in Guyana.

Deputy Police Chief Cde. Lloyd Barker, who explained

'Operation Youth Club' to the *Chronicle* yesterday, stated: "We know that there is a lot of energy in our youths and we are trying to harness it towards meaningful activities with special reference to nation building and community work."

He referred to the Lodge district where, he said,

youths were in the habit of lining at street corners and hitching rides on the back of buses plying the D'Urban Street route. These practices, he noted, have been considerably reduced since the formation of a youth club in the area, by the Police.

The club, known as the Trouble Shooters Youth Club, "has met with tremendous success", Cde. Barker stated. The club uses the Lodge Government

School as its base of operations which are conducted by youths of the area in collaboration with, and supervision by the Police.

Cde. Barker said that since the club was formed, the police, with the help of club members, was able to get a high percentage of the limers off the streets and also from desisting in the dangerous practice of riding at the back of buses.

He noted that the adults in

the community were commenting on the change in the attitudes of the youths of the Lodge district.

Cde. Barker said that if such youth clubs as the Trouble Shooters were established all over the country, there could be "meaningful co-ordination of the efforts of the youths with the efforts of the adult community in the Crime Prevention Committee being established."

"This", he stated, "could go a far way in reducing the crime rate, bearing in mind that a very high percentage of youths are involved in crime."

But the Deputy Commissioner disclosed that the immediate problem facing the youth club programme was one of finance.

He recalled he had recently launched a Fund, on the Super Star show at the National Park which was organised by show business entrepreneur Vivian Lee. He expressed thanks to Cde. Lee and local calypsonian 'King Cobra' who made cash donations to the Police Fund, during the show.

Cde. Barker said that the objectives of 'Operation Youth Club' were:

- To promote the formation of clubs within Guyana, and the establishment of friendly relations with other youth clubs and organisations concerned with the development of youths without and within the State of Guyana;

- To help create positive attitudes towards the Police Service and other responsible community officials and organisations;

- To teach respect for property and rights of others;

- To promote the understanding of laws and government and to develop an appreciation for the nation's heritage and struggle for economic, social and political freedom.

- To promote activities for the purpose of giving the youths a meaningful direction in life in order to become worthy citizens.

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