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THE BEACON

An Independent Anguillan News-sheet

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Editor. Atlin Harrigan

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EDITORIAL The following telegram was sent from San Francisco to Mr Fioccio, the representative of the Bank of America and read out by him to a public meeting in the Park on March 8th. "The following is a statement that should be broadly published in Anguilla Newspaper and other media that- The Bank of America has purchased controlling interest in the National Mid-Atlantic Bank and intends to convert the offices of the N M-A B to branches of the Bank of America. Each of the offices will be under the direct supervision of the Bank of America in San Francisco, as is the Bank's normal practice --- the same message is being sent to St Kitts" signed George Kroetz, District Operations Officer, San Francisco.

This telegram and the public meeting made it clear that:
1. The Anguillan branch of the bank will be directly under San Francisco and not under St Kitts. 2. That the Bank of America has told St Kitts to correct the misleading advertisement in the Democrat. 3 That for the last nine months, although St Kitts Government did its best to close down the bank in Anguilla, it was only by the determination of Mr Clifford Rogers the Manager, that the Bank remained open, but if at any time there had been a run on the bank, it would have had to close its doors. 4. The Bank of America guarantees now all the liabilities of our Bank, and is sending cash for that purpose. 5. The final contract between the Bank of America and the Anguillan Government has yet to be signed,, but until that is done our Government approves that the Bank of America works here.

The BEACON Comments. It was on the advice of Dr Roger Fisher that the Bank of America was invited to work in Anguilla under these four conditions:- that 1. Anguilla's bank should be completely independent of St Kitts, that 2. The Bank of America take over all assets and liabilities of the N M-A B in Anguilla, that 3. No Anguillan would be penalised for non-payment of interest on loans during the difficult times, and 4. The Bank of America would sign a separate contract with the Anguillan Government before finally taking over.

Mr Ronald Webster and all the Council members up to last Sunday were quite satisfied by this agreement.. What has caused alarm is an untrue and misleading advertisement in the Democrat. According to international law the only way the Bank of America could have bought up the National Mid-Atlantic Bank was to buy all three branches as one lot. This has been done. Now they must come to Anguilla and sign an agreement with the de facto Government here for permission to operate. The sooner this can be done, the better. All was going according to plan made by Roger Fisher, but we consider the Government could have done more to allay the fears of the people, and have stood firm by the decisions they had made, and not to have been swayed themselves by an irresponsible advertisement. Surely Anguillans have learnt by now not to believe everything that emanates from St Kitts. We need this reputable international bank here and now. If it should go, the door will be wide open for any privately controlled bank which would only bring crooks to Anguilla.

MAGISTRATE'S COURT. On March 7th Mr Raphael Lake presided for the first time as acting Magistrate. He told the audience that though he thought he could do a better job by trying as welfare officer to get people to settle their disputes before ever they came to court, he had agreed to accept the post of acting Magistrate, because some one had to do the job. He appealed to all to try to build a new Anguilla by respecting each others rights. If they did so, many would never appear in court at all. If they knew that they were in the wrong they should plead guilty and so gain the sympathy of the court.

CONFERENCE FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS. Miss Eleanor Rice from Antigua invites all day school teachers to a Conference on Saturday March 16th in the Community Centre. The Theme will be "Serving Christ as a Teacher". There will be special speakers, also group discussion and film strips. This should be an interesting and challenging programme, and all teachers or prospective teachers should try and come. A further circular will be sent to each teacher.

CHANGES IN P W D In an interview with Mr John Webster, our reporter learnt that from Jan 1st Mr Wallace Rey is no longer superintendent of Public Works, nor is drawing any salary from the Government, but merely giving the government the benefit of his advice.

POSTAL ORDERS Will all persons who handed out-of-date postal orders to Mr John Webster to be cashed, please collect the money from him at once.

STOP PRESS. Mr Ronald Webster on his sole responsibility has asked us to publish this announcement. "The Government will open a Savings Account at the Administration Buildings on Monday March 11th. It will be open for business on three days of the week, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 -12, and 1 pm to 4pm

MAIL We hear from Z I Z that all mail from Anguilla bearing "fictitious" stamps, will not be delivered but returned to Anguilla. This is a step in the right direction, as up till now all such mail has been confiscated. There should be many sacks to come back. Thank you, Mr Bradshaw.



THE JEKILL and HYDE OF ST KITTS. The following is an article published in the London Evening Standard Of Feb: 22nd, written by Lord Lambton, M. P. who recently visited Anguilla and St Kitts.

"The last island I visited in the West Indies was St Kitts, from which another island, Anguilla seceded last year, demanding independence. All over the Caribbean rumours had reached me of extraordinary occurrences in St Kitts, coloured by the activities of Mr Bradshaw its Premier, who was reported to be extremely eccentric. I was informed that he was frequently to be seen in the uniform of colonel of an imaginary regiment, pistolled and besworded, riding in the back of a vintage Rolls Royce. So looking forward to our meeting, I was surprised to find a charming dignified and gentle man, who looked as if he has never seen a uniform in his life. I had a long talk with him in which I tried to ascertain whether he was worried by the fact that his Government had become labelled as notorious in the Caribbean, and that it was generally conceived that he was a quasi-dictator determined to drag his island down to the level of the Haiti regime.

Mr Bradshaw realises this fact, resents it, and conceives that he is the victim of an international conspiracy aimed at his destruction. This is peculiar, for the reasons for Mr Bradshaw's Caribbean reputation are obvious.

The Leader of the Opposition had been thrown into prison for opposing, and has now fled the country. Others, for no greater crime than writing a letter criticising the Government have also been imprisoned. The trial of prisoners was a parody of any sort of justice, and was condemned by the West Indies Judicial Authority. Mr Bradshaw's position is also totalitarian. He is not only premier, but president of the sugar-workers union, and at the same time controls the police. In other words, his rule is not only tyrannical but authoritarian. Why should he be surprised that it has caused such resentment in the other Caribbean associated states, who are striving to maintain a democracy and the rule of law? The answer probably is that there are Two Mr Bradshaws.

One is the elegant and urbane ex-federal minister, who can justly take pride in having achieved the high standard of living of the Sugar workers in St Kitts, whose allegiance he retains. The other Mr Bradshaw is a Mr Hyde, who appears at times to be really unwell and who, if he took advice from an impartial medical board, would almost certainly be advised to retire from public life. For his health has caused him to have delusions not only of grandeur but also of persecution, which has made him a ready tool for some of his advisers who are rapidly and richly feathering their nests to the island's detriment. These advisers are a peculiar assortment of men. One has a quaint background for such a post- a conviction for assault battery and foul language.

Another personal adviser is an even more alarming character, an extreme racist and friend of Malcolm X, he is stirring up the dormant colour problem, and undermining the position of the sugar growers upon whom the economy of the country depends. He is obviously Mr Bradshaw's Iago, and appears almost to wear on his sleeve the precept "I follow him to serve my turn upon him"

Nor are these advisers exceptional. Indeed, they all appear united in pushing Mr Bradshaw towards a declaration of a one-party state. St Kitts is a sick and unhappy island, and Mr Bradshaw's future policies will embarrass the British Government, which remains responsible for the island's defence policy. Nor will the recent agreement, made by Mr Nigel Fisher and Mr Donald Chapman, to postpone for a year the question of Anguilla's secession help matters. For conflicting impressions are held.

Anguilla believes that its independence has been established. St Kitts believes that Anguilla will be returned to it by the British Government at the end of the year. A settlement based on such a misunderstanding will do more harm in the long run than a clear unpopular decision would have done now. Its most likely long-term result will be an excuse for the establishment by Mr Bradshaw of a totalitarian state, an infant Haiti for whose defence an unhappy British Government will be responsible"

ADVERTISEMENTS

If you are building a house, you will need a good house PLAN. So for Complete Planning Services & the best Draughtsmanship, see JEAN H WEBSTER, your native ARCHITECT. For further information, see Atlin HARRIGAN, his resident representative

BLUE CARIBE BAR AND RESTAURANT, in the Valley, Anguilla For Rent Excellent location opposite the Bank of America. See Randolph Barbrow for further information.

Dr DeFries will be in attendance at the administration buildings on Sat: March 9th to test your eyes and prescribe glasses if needed.

FOR SALE Two Acres of Land situated in Deep Waters' Bottom. For further particulars see Alton Rogers, Island Harbour

CORRESPONDENCE. Dear Sir, May I through the Medium of the Beacon thank the people of Anguilla for their generous response to the Earl Haig Poppy Day appeal for 1967.

The Anguilla collection amounting to \$112.15, is a record for the island, and it will greatly assist the Benevolent Fund which cares for the needs of ex-servicemen in all three islands. Yours sincerely, G P J Walker, Archdeacon.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE. It is reported that the Office of the Chief Executive in the Valley will be moved to the New Government Buildings on Sandy Hill, and will open there on Thursday March 7th. 1968

