

Get It Straight

By Thomas Wright

I AM MOST reassured to hear from Mr. Moses Maton that he has guts I do not know how otherwise he would digest his dinner. I would like to assure my readers that I have guts too. As a matter of fact, so had my old cat George. But the only thing guts ever did for George was to end him up on a G-string.

Almost total confusion

THE FORTNIGHT census has now come to an end and has been without doubt, one of the finest examples of almost total confusion that occurred for a long time in the Paradise Isle.

There have been notable exceptions, however, and one of them happens to be the parish in which I live. The chief enumerators did a splendid job in spite of having to operate a system apparently designed by blockheads.

How it should have been planned

FIRST an accurate map of the parish would have been prepared to a large scale showing the electoral districts. This map should have been printed so as to be available in quantities. Then in addition to a large map of each district, there should have been printed out a list of the names and addresses of all the electors in each district.

No maps available

INSTEAD of maps of any kind, only a few scattered leaflets were available at the time of the census. The leaflets were of such a size that they were almost impossible to use.

The main fault was that the Chief Enumerator, Mr. A. J. G. G. G., had not been instructed to obtain maps. This was a serious oversight.

Nobody knew exact boundaries

IN CONSEQUENCE of this, the boundaries of the electoral districts were almost entirely unknown to the enumerators and to the electors.

It is true that the Chief Enumerator had a list of the names of the electors in each district, but this list was not available to the enumerators.

If we cannot take a census we haven't got a chance

I REALLY do not know what it is to be done about this kind of incompetence. The taking of a census is a very important job and it is essential that it should be carried out in an efficient and accurate manner.

If we cannot take a census, we are in a very serious position. It is essential that we should take steps to ensure that this does not happen again.

THE DAILY GLEANER

ESTABLISHED 1934
148-156 Harbour Street Kingston
JAMAICA, B.W.I.

TELEPHONES
4606
3606

For All Departments:
AFTER MIDNIGHT
Editorial Dept. 4606 and 4607
News Dept. 4606 and 4607
Advertising Dept. 4606 and 4607

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1957

RESISTANCE

News that the second largest Polish city, Lodz, is in the throes of a transport dislocation caused by a general strike of municipal bus and tram workers calls to mind the events of Poznan slightly over a year ago—and their momentous repercussions not only in Poland but among the European satellites generally.

When the Poznan workers struck and demonstrated on June 28, 1956, their first demands were for bread. They were soon supplemented by calls for freedom. The Russo-Polish Government answered by sending armed forces to crush the demonstrators. This was accomplished only after loss of life and significantly, the first Polish military units to arrive fraternised with the workers.

Once the feelings of a powerful section of the Polish industrial workers had thus been shown secondary Communist Party officials, intellectuals and the youth of the country gained courage in the expression of their true attitude towards pro-Russian Communism. Towards the end of October Mr. Gomulka, whose release from prison on charges of Titoism had occurred a few months earlier, was swept into power as First-Secretary of the United Workers' (Communist) Party, the pro-Russian Marshal Rokossovsky was ousted.

This assertion of Polish nationalism was anything but welcome to the USSR. Soviet forces were deployed and armed intervention was threatened. Mr. Gomulka and his Ministers stood firm and armed the Warsaw workers against the possibility of a Russian attack. Messrs. Khrushchev and Bulganin thought better of their original intentions—Poland with 28 million people is a different proposition from Hungary with less than 10 million—and Russia accepted the proposition of a semi-independent Poland.

In December last an agreement between the Polish and Russian Governments stipulated that the Soviet forces temporarily stationed in Poland could neither be increased nor moved from their present bases without the prior consent of the Polish Government. In February Poland enjoyed the first post-war elections in which there was secrecy and a certain amount of freedom. Representatives of the Peasant and Democratic Parties were elected to the Polish Parliament and one quarter of the present Polish Cabinet is drawn from this group.

The leaders of the Poznan revolt were treated with leniency unprecedented in dealing with similar offences in Communist States. Mr. Gomulka himself doubted the theory that they were capitalist agents and admitted that they had real grievances. There has since been a marked relaxation in the demands on the Polish workers and peasants.

The Lodz strike is apparently purely industrial in its causes, and it will be interesting to see how Mr. Gomulka will react to it now that he enjoys the responsibility of office. In addition the reactions of the Polish people will give a significant indication of their attitude towards the nearly autonomous and liberal Communist regime which they have managed to establish.

Chaguaramas

Mr. Manley has chided the Americans for their continual pattering of comment on the West Indian request for the return of Chaguaramas. Mr. Manley points out with correctness that the comments are completely out of keeping with the atmosphere of the talks in London.

Mr. Manley perhaps does not remember however that in America military chiefs criticise their Government

openly, and departments of the armed forces wage a continual publicity war to get a bigger share of the Pentagon vote, unlike in these parts where neither soldiers nor civil servants are encouraged to talk to the Press.

A joint commission is being set up but, according to the American way of life, that is just the beginning of public comment in the United States even criminal cases are tried simultaneously in the Press and on television while the courts are doing their work. The United States is a country of unbridled free speech. A Senator recently called President Eisenhower a liars liar. So our West Indian leaders had better realise that in dealing with Uncle Sam no publicity holds are barred and when it comes to gab only an Armenian salesman can out-talk an American.

One illuminating thing which has emerged from all this Yankee patter is however that the naval boys at Chaguaramas admit that they want to stay there because it is a lovely place. Which is what we thought all along, and said so indeed the cabled story may have by accident rendered 'lovely' where 'loveliness' was meant. It adds up to the same: Said the naval officer—so that we can all remember the reasons why they want to hold Chaguaramas—"Not only do we need it strategically but it is one of the liveliest (loveliest) places in the world." That is really why they want to stay. They have talked so much they have talked the truth.

Comic Dictionary

Bachelor
A man who remains unmarried because he is a woman hater or because he doesn't want to become one.

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TODAY

By G. St. C. Scotter
THE British people, or perhaps I should say the British Press have taken the Allincharm affair seriously enough to put out a National questionnaire in regard to it but on reading through the questions it seems to me that half of them are merely impertinent and never should be asked at all.

I MUCH appreciate and so I fancy many others the pleasant and chatty letters Sir Hugh Foot sends to the Gleaner on his holiday in England.

Not only is this a new and very welcome departure for a Governor but a keen observer like Sir Hugh can tell us many things that go on in England today of interest to Jamaicans and of which we would not otherwise hear.

I WAS much interested in the picture 'The Common Cold' by 14-year-old Annabel Shephman which formed part of the Hampton exhibit in the DeWham Art Competition.

For a child of this age it shows outstanding talent in the modern style but what is this style?

Pastel-shaded pistols
LATEST gimmick in firearms—pastel-shaded pistols for women. They are advertised at 40 dollars (\$17 10s) like this—

"Sleek, compact revolver with quick draw non-swinging trigger and hammer and round butt grip. Designed especially for women. This pistol is pastel pretty in three shimmering—glittering shades: turquoise, gold and pink. It comes in a satin-lined tamper proof mahogany-finished case."

—Express

Except for the leading articles appearing in the second and third columns the matter published on this page does not necessarily represent or reflect the opinions of the Daily Gleaner. — THE EDITOR

THE WEST INDIES—TOWARDS FEDERATION

ON the 2nd August, 1956, the Royal Assent was given to the British Caribbean Federation Act, which will enable the constitution of the federation of the British West Indies to be embodied in an Order in Council and the federation to be established in due course.

In a message to the Governors of the territories concerned—Barbados, Jamaica, the Leeward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and the Windward Islands—the United Kingdom Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Alan Lennox-Boyd said: "The Queen has by her Assent to the British Caribbean Federation Act, on this auspicious occasion, which is of such great significance for the West Indies, marks an important stage towards the setting up of the Federation. I send my warm congratulations to the Governments and peoples and my best wishes for the future in the Federation to create which so many have worked for so long."

The stages in the development of the idea of a West Indies Federation, as the London Conference of February 1956 at which it was agreed that the first federal elections should be held early in 1958, are outlined in a special reference paper, R 3188 of December 1955 in the notes which follow information on progress made at and during the conference is summarised.

London Conference, 1956

A CONFERENCE attended by the representatives of the United Kingdom Government and the West Indian Governments concerned was held in London from 1st to 10th February 1956 to reach final decisions on the major outstanding issues and to agree on the procedure for setting up a representative Commission to establish a Federation in the British West Indies.

The discussions at the Conference—which marked the culmination of nearly eleven years of consideration of the question of closer political association in the region—were based principally upon the Plan for a British Caribbean Federation drawn up in 1953 at the previous London Conference and subsequently adopted by all the West Indian Governments concerned and upon the Report of the Conference on the Freedom of Movement held in Trinidad in March 1955 and the reports published in January 1956 of the main bodies concerned appointed to consider the judicial, fiscal and civil services aspects of the federation.

Constitutional Matters

THE Conference agreed that with certain variations the plan put forward by the conference in April 1953 should form the basis of the Federal Constitution. The 1953 plan—summarised in G.O.P. 1 referred to in G.O.P. 3 and 4—provides amongst other things for a Governor-General and a wholly elected House of Representatives of 45 members. It also provides for the election of members to represent each Unit territory to a Senate of 19 Senators appointed by the Governor-General with agreed numbers of Senators to represent each Unit territory. A Council of State to be the principal instrument of policy consisting of the Governor-General, the 17 members nominated by the Prime Minister, 3 members of the Senate appointed by the Governor-General in Council and 1 officer nominated by the Governor-General in his discretion. The plan divides fields of legislation into an exclusive list on which the federal legislature alone legislates and a concurrent list on which Unit legislatures may also legislate, items on neither list falling within the legislative authority of the Units.

The principal variations decided upon at the Conference are set out below.

The reference in the Constitution which according to the 1953 plan will recite as one of the objects of federation that there should be the greatest possible freedom of movement for persons and goods within the Federation will contain two additional recitals: one that all persons in the Federation should enjoy freedom of religious worship and the other that there should be an integrated trade policy for the Federation and that as soon as possible a Customs Union including internal free trade should be introduced.

It was agreed that certain items should be added to the exclusive list of legislation (i.e. the list of subjects on which the Federal legislature alone legislates). These include the establishment of Federal agencies for advisory purposes and the regulation of such joint services as intra-regional shipping, the air services operated in the West Indies and the student services operated in the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada and elsewhere.

It was further agreed to take account of the recommendations of the 1955 Trinidad Conference by placing movement of persons within the Federation of the concurrent list (i.e. the list of subjects of which Unit legislatures may also legislate). Provision has been made for a more flexible method of amending the Federal Constitution principally in order to provide for the possible entry into the Federation at a later date of British Guiana and British Honduras as the composition of the

Council of State was the subject of discussion and it was agreed that it should not include the three official members proposed in the 1953 plan. The Governor-General should however nominate three officials, selected by him who would have the right to attend all meetings of the Council and take part in its discussions. The need for the attendance of these officials would be reviewed from time to time and the provision might later be withdrawn. The three members of the Senate on the Council of State should be elected by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister of the Federation and not as proposed in the 1953 plan.

Financial and Economic Matters
SUBJECTS discussed by the Conference included the raising of Federal revenue, problems of establishing a Customs Union, United States financial assistance to Federal and Unit Governments and the setting up of a Loans Council.

It was agreed that for the purposes of the Federal Government should obtain its revenue from profits on the currency issue and from a mandatory levy on Unit Government from which would be deducted a sum to be used by the Federal Government for excise and related duties which the Constitution will give the Federal legislature power to impose.

A Commission on Trade and Tariffs will be set up as soon as possible to examine and report on the public ownership in the establishment of a Customs Union for the Federal area. The Commission will bear in mind the later accession of British Guiana and British Honduras. It will be required to report not more than two years after the setting up of the Federal Government.

The financial aid promised by the United Kingdom Government as a contribution towards the cost of setting up a Federal capital has been increased subject to the approval of Parliament from £200,000 to a maximum of £1,000,000 and the major part is available as soon as it is needed. When further funds are required the United Kingdom Government should be approached by the Federal Government to the London market for this purpose.

In addition the United Kingdom Government has agreed to make an annual grant of the Federal Government for the first ten years the amount of the grant and the proportion to be calculated on the foreseeable deficits of the Unit Governments which have hitherto been receiving grants in aid from the United Kingdom Government. The grant will be served by the Federal Government for the purpose of aiding Unit Governments which are unable to balance their budgets from their own resources.

The establishment of the Federation the detailed financial control at present exercised by the United Kingdom Government over the finances of those Unit Governments which receive grants in aid will become the responsibility of the Federal Government. The Conference also considered that there should be a substantial devolution of the Federal Government of United Kingdom financial control to the United Kingdom Government. It was considered that the Federal Government should be established to coordinate borrowing by the Units and the Federation and that the Federation Government should have the power to guarantee loans raised by Unit Governments.

Civil Service and Judicial matters

THE CONFERENCE felt that many of the recommendations contained in the reports of the Civil Service Commissioner and the Judicial Commissioner required further study and that the reports should be considered for the consideration of a Standing Federation Committee (see below). On certain aspects the recommendations however the Conference reached decisions.

It was agreed that a Public Service Commission should be appointed at an early date and that after consultation with the Standing Federation Committee the United Kingdom Secretary of State for the Colonies should make provisional appointments to the Public Service Commission and to a number of posts which would have to be filled in order to carry out the essential work of preparing for federation. The appointments would be subject to confirmation by the Governor-General when he assumed office.

On the question of unifying the public services in the area of the Federation, it was agreed that adequate machinery already existed for inter-Unit transfers in the senior ranks of the public services and that at this stage the Federation should be unwilling to lose all control over the senior appointments in their own territories.

It was agreed that judges to the Federal Supreme Court should be appointed by the Governor-General after consultation with the Prime Minister of the Federation in order to ensure that the Court should be staffed with judges of the highest possible calibre.

THE minimum qualifications recommended by the Judicial Commissioner are to be raised. The Conference agreed that British Caribbean territories not members of the Federation should be enabled to use the Federal Supreme Court and it was left to the Standing Federation Committee to consider the administrative and financial implications. It was recommended that the Court should normally sit in six prescribed centres: Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica, one of the Leeward Islands, Trinidad and one of the Windward Islands and that cases should be heard at the place nearest to the territory in which they arose.

The Federal Capital

DELEGATES to the Conference were unable to reach a final decision on the site for the Federal capital and they agreed therefore that the United Kingdom Secretary of State for the Colonies to appoint a Fact-Finding Commission which should submit recommendations on the three most suitable sites in order to preference. The Commission should be appointed as soon as practicable and should submit its report within four months of the date on which it started work. A final decision on the site would be taken by vote of the Standing Federation Committee.

WHILE the major issues relating to the Federal Constitution were settled at the Conference, the delegates recognised that much remained to be done. On the constitutional side a copy of the draft Constitution in its present form and a copy of the plan or by conclusions reached at the Conference would be agreed on the administrative side measures would have to be taken to ensure that when the first elections had been held there would be in existence an administrative machinery to carry on the business of the Government.

It was agreed therefore that the Standing Federation Committee should continue as a standing body to be known as the Standing Federation Committee for the purpose of preparing for the conduct of federal business. Until the appointment of a Governor-General of the Federation the Committee should meet under the chairmanship of the Comptroller-in-Chief and Welfare in the West Indies, who is also Comptroller-in-Chief of the Federal Ordnance. Thereafter it would act as an advisory body to the Governor-General until the first Federal elections had taken place.

Its membership should be the same as that of the London Conference delegations (i.e. 16 Barbados, 3 the Leeward Islands, 3 Trinidad and Tobago, 3 the Windward Islands, 4) and delegates should be taken by a simple majority vote. The chairman having a casting vote British Guiana would be entitled to send two observers to the meeting and British Honduras one observer, who would be regarded as 'full members' in matters in which their territories are directly concerned.

INITIAL progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the London Conference in February 1956 is set out below.

THE report of the Fact-Finding Commission appointed by the United Kingdom Secretary of State for the Colonies in June 1956 to make recommendations on the location of the Federal capital was published in January 1957. Barbados was recommended as the most suitable location with next in

order of preference Jamaica and thirdly Trinidad. The recommendations were considered at a meeting of the Standing Federation Committee in the same month and this committee decided on Trinidad for the location of the capital. It went on later to consider the choice of a site within that Colony and plans for temporary accommodation.

In July 1957 it was announced that discussions would open in London during the month between representatives of the Standing Federation Committee and the United Kingdom Government about the selection of the site for the capital. Discussions with the United Kingdom Secretary of State for the Colonies will follow in view of the fact that the Committee has expressed an interest in the possible use for this purpose of land leased to the United States for defence purposes under the Lease Base Agreement of 1941.

COMMISSION
The appointment of Sir William Dawson, C.M.G., as Chairman of the Fact-Finding Commission was announced in June 1956. Sir Dawson was recommended by the London Conference of 1956 to be the Chairman of the Commission and to report to the Federal Government not later than two years after the establishment of the government. Sir Dawson's work will involve the establishment of a customs union for the Federal area bearing in mind the accession to the Federation of British Guiana and British Honduras.

THE Standing Federation Committee has decided on the final structure of the Federal Civil Service. A preliminary estimate of the cost of the Federal Civil Service, as established in Barbados in the autumn of 1956, four key officials—the Federal Secretary, the Federal Finance Officer, the Federal Comptroller-in-Chief and the Federal Establishment Officer—were appointed and have taken up office. Further appointments are being made to see the first stages of the work of machinery for the conduct of federal business.

Appointment of Governor-General

THE name chosen by the Standing Federation Committee for the new Federation was The West Indies. The United Kingdom Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Lennox-Boyd, announced in May 1957 the appointment of the Right Honourable Lord Hailes to the office of Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the West Indies. Lord Hailes is expected to assume office in January 1958.

When the Governor-General takes up office early in 1958 the Interim Federal Government will come into being. At first, the Governor-General will be advised by the Standing Federation Committee. Among the first tasks of the Interim Government will be the preparation for Federal elections in the first quarter of 1958. With the opening of the first sessions of the two Houses of the Federal Legislature and the appointment of a Prime Minister and a Cabinet by the Federal Government will come fully into operation. It is expected that the United Kingdom Government will be able to provide a grant of up to £1 million to be made towards the cost of establishing the federal capital. A block grant will be made to the Federal Government in each of the first ten years of the Federation to enable it to make grants to the Governments of those colonies whose resources are insufficient to meet their needs.

United Kingdom Government has given or promised to the British dependencies in the Caribbean in recent years in furtherance of their economic and social development in connection with a despatch dated 24th April 1956 from the United Kingdom Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Chairman of the Standing Federation Committee of the West Indies. The following information is taken from the despatch.

During the ten years from 1946 to 1956 the United Kingdom Government provided the West Indies with grants in aid of administration and grants for special purposes such as hurricane relief amounting in all to nearly £25 million. In addition assistance already made available or promised to the West Indies under the United Kingdom Colonial Development and Welfare Act in the period 1946-60 amounted to some £7.5 million of which it is estimated that some £4 million was available in 1957 for use up to March 1960.

The assistance thus given to the Caribbean region in the Caribbean B.I.S. Guiana and British Honduras has been as the West Indies represents more than 90% of the population of the Caribbean. It is estimated that the United Kingdom Government is responsible for nearly 50% of the total cost of the Caribbean Development Commission. Development of the Caribbean has been a major objective of British policy since the second World War.

There has also been a substantial United Kingdom investment in the private sector of the West Indies. In the three years 1954-56 of a total of about £15 million some £26 million came from the United Kingdom.

Apart from these measures of direct financial assistance the United Kingdom Government has adopted measures to assist the region by ensuring continuity of supply in the marketing of its products. These arrangements comprise the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement which has on average the West Indies and continues to provide the foundation of the stability and prosperity of the major agricultural industry of the region and the price support scheme based on a United Kingdom guarantee for the banana and citrus industries. It is expected that the next most important agricultural industries.

As regards the future, the United Kingdom Government has already given certain undertakings in respect of the attainment of independence within the Commonwealth. The region will continue to share in such financial assistance towards development and welfare as the United Kingdom Government may be able to make available to colonial territories in the future. A grant up to £1 million to be made towards the cost of establishing the federal capital. A block grant will be made to the Federal Government in each of the first ten years of the Federation to enable it to make grants to the Governments of those colonies whose resources are insufficient to meet their needs.

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