

19th July, 1976.

Report on the Bye Election in the
Constituency of the City of Bridge-
town for the House of Assembly

Sir,

The Acting Governor General issued a writ to fill a vacancy in the House of Assembly in accordance with the provision of Section 47(2) of the Constitution of Barbados, on Saturday the 17th April, 1976.

2. The writ appointed the 22nd April, 1976, as Nomination Day and May the 12th 1976, as Polling Day, if the election were contested. May the 13th was set as the date on which the writ was due to be returned to the Acting Governor General.

Election Officers

3(1). In accordance with the Provisions of Sections 30(2) 31 and 32(1) of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 12 of the Laws of Barbados, the following persons were appointed for the election. -

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Mr. Sydney Harris | - | Deputy Supervisor of Elections |
| Mr. Seton Taylor | - | Returning Officer |
| Mr. Herman Yearwood | - | Election Clerk |

(2) In addition to the officers mentioned above, other appointments were made in accordance with Sub-Sections (1) and (2) of Section 33 of the Act. A list is set out as Appendix A.

Notice of Election

4. The Notice of Election was published in the Advocate-News on Sunday the 18th April, 1976, and the Official Gazette of 20th April, 1976, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 3 of the Election Rules.

Nomination Day

Nomination Day

5. Nomination Papers were delivered to the Returning Officer Mr. Seton Taylor at Queens Park House on the 22nd April, 1976. Five (5) Candidates were nominated to contest the election - There were:-

- (1) Mr. Lyle Carmichael - Fitts Village, St. James
- (2) Mr. Alturo Gilkes - Scotts Terrace, Grassettes, St. Michael
- (3) Miss Billie Miller - Risk Road, St. James
- (4) Mr. Carl Moore - Review Road, Bush Hall, St. Michael.
- (5) Mr. Ernest Mottley - 'Marieville' St. Stephens, St. Michael.

Statements of persons nominated to contest the election as well as guides setting out the locations of the polling stations were publicly displayed by the Returning Officer at the Nomination Centre and at every building selected as a polling station within the Constituency.

Training

6. Two sessions were held at the Theatre, Queens Park, where officers were prepared for their duties on polling day. These discussions were supplemented with a booklet on procedures prepared by the Supervisor of Elections.

Polling Stations

7. There were eight (8) buildings used as Polling Stations in the Constituency of which five (5) were owned by the Government. Rent for the private property ranged from \$50 to \$120. In accordance with the provisions of rule 12(2) of the House of Assembly Rules, polling began at 6.00 a.m. and ended at 6.00 p.m.

Electoral Lists

8. The following registers were used in the conduct of the election:-

- (a) Annual Register published - 28th January, 1976
- (b) Supplementary Register " - 30th January, 1976
- (c) " " " - 23rd February, 1976
- (d) " " " - 30th March, 1976
- (e) " " " - 30th April, 1976

9. The Chief Registering Officer prepared lists of persons who since the publication of the relevant registers had filed changes of residence or who for one reason or other ceased to qualify as electors in the Constituency.

/Counting of.....

Counting of the Votes

10. The counting of the votes took place at the Bethel Auditorium. The count began approximately 8.10 p.m. and ended around midnight on the 12th May, 1976. There were a number of problems encountered such as -

- (a) a number of unauthorized persons in the centre;
- (b) an unduly long count;
- (c) the leakage of information before the count was completed.

11. In an effort to combat the above problems in future consideration is being given to the feasibility of issuing 'Passes' to such persons as may be eligible for the attendance at the count. Such a procedure would assist the security officers in their duties.

12. The system of counting has been revised and the count should now be completed within two (2) hours.

13. With regard to the premature leakage of information it is proposed that in future once the count has started the doors of the centre will be locked, thereby permitting no one to leave or enter until the Returning Officer announces the results.

Storage of Election Documents

14. The Returning Officer delivered the election documents to the Supervisor of Elections on 21st May, 1976, who passed them over to the Registrar the same day in accordance with Rule 56(2) of the Election Rules.

Candidates Election Expenses

15(1) The returns of election expenses were forwarded by the Candidates/Agents in accordance with the provisions of Section 52(1) of the Act. These returns have been delivered to the Registrar in accordance with Section 60(1) of the Act. In accordance with the provisions of Section 48(2) of the Act, the maximum expenses allowed for each candidate was \$2,846.

(2) The following is a summary of the candidate s election expenses:-

| <u>Name</u> | <u>\$</u> | <u>Date of Receipt</u> |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Mr. Lyle Carmichael | 987.00 | 29.6.76 |
| Miss Billie Miller | 2,759.70 | 29.6.76 |
| Mr. Carl Moore | 1,770.00 | 30.6.76 |
| Mr. Ernest Mottley | 1,168.36 | 2.6.76 |

/In accordance.....

16. In accordance with Section 52(1) of the Act the returns should be submitted to the Supervisor of Elections by the 30th June, 1976. Mr. Eric Sealy, Election Agent for Mr. A. Gilkes has not yet submitted his returns and is therefore guilty of an illegal practice in accordance with Section 55 of the Act.

Election Statistics

17. Appendix 'B' presents in some detail the election results:-

- (a) The number and percentage of votes cast for each party;
- (b) The number of registered voters, the number who voted together with the percentage, and the number of rejected ballot papers.

Cost of the Election

18. The cost of the election amounted to \$5,306.90. An analysis of this total is set out below:-

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| (a) Election Officers | 3,265.00 |
| (b) Police & Island Constables | 256.50 |
| (c) Stationery & Supplies | 500.00 |
| (d) Rental of Polling Stations | 340.00 |
| (e) Travelling & Transport | 355.00 |
| (f) Marking of roads | 75.24 |
| (g) Incidentals | 179.20 |
| (h) Publishing Notices | 335.96 |

General

19. As far as the summary aspect of the election is concerned it is unfortunate that the relationship between the Returning Officer and Election Clerk deteriorated to the extent that it left much to be desired. The Returning Officer in his report stated inter alia -

"I regret that the Election Clerk was not as co-operative as would be expected, and at times being distinctly hostile. If I am required again to perform duties as Returning Officer, I would prefer some one else to be my Election Clerk."

/It is

20. It is also unfortunate that an elector was issued with a tendered ballot paper consequent upon the negligence of an election officer who, rather than follow instructions given relating to an applicant who was unable to produce an Identification Card, relied on his knowledge of the area and the people resident therein.

Acknowledgement

21. I wish to extend sincere thanks to all who participated in the election for the assistance given.

Yours faithfully,

D.R. Smith
~~D.R. SMITH~~
Supervisor of Elections.

Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Legal Affairs,
Marine House,
Hastings,
CHRIST CHURCH.

DAS:njg.

Appendix A

Bye Election - Constituency of
the City of Bridgetown

List of Polling Stations with situations setting
out the names of the Presiding Officers and Poll
Clerks appointed thereto

| | | | |
|----|--|------|---|
| BA | Bethel Church Hall | (a) | P.O. Mr. O'Brien Archer, Rockley New Road, Christ Church. |
| | | (1) | Mr. Frank Morris, Passage Gardens, St. Michael. |
| | | (2) | Mr. Henderson Sobers, Grassfield Road, St. Michael. |
| BB | St. Ambrose Girls' School | (a) | P.O. Mr. Jewyl Ward, George Street, Belleville, St. Michael. |
| | | (1) | Mr. Elson A. Best, Tichbourne, Howells + Road, St. Michael. |
| | | (2) | Mr. Colin Fields, Appleby, St. James. |
| | St. Ambrose Girls' School | (b) | P.O. Mr. Bradshaw Workman, Two Mile Hill, St. Michael. |
| | | (1) | Mr. Donville Johnson, No. 93 Husbands, St. James. |
| | | (2) | Mr. Rolston Headley, Free Hill, Black Rock, St. Michael. |
| BC | Queens Park House | P.O. | Mr. Decourtenay Cumberbatch, Elizabeth Park, Christ Church. |
| | | (1) | Mr. Milton Bonnett, Reed Street, Bridgetown. |
| | | (2) | Mr. Ikin Alleyne, Brittons Hill, St. Michael. |
| BD | Wesley Hall Boys School | (a) | P.O. Mr. Darcy Small, Reece Land, Clapham, Christ Church. |
| | | (1) | Miss Mariette Arthur, Bank Hall, St. Michael. |
| | | (2) | Mr. Richard Lorde, Tudor Bridge, St. Michael. |
| | Wesley Hall Boys School | (b) | P.O. Mr. Jeffrey Nelson, Jackson, St. Michael. |
| | | (1) | Mr. Clyde Smith, Appleby Gardens, St. James. |
| | | (2) | Mr. Cameron Withers, Curwens Ave., Beckles Road, St. Michael. |
| BE | James Street Methodist Church Hall | (a) | P.O. Mr. Stanton Parris, 84 Wanstead Terrace, St. Michael. |
| | | (1) | Miss Blanche Grant, Mason Hall Street, |
| | | (2) | Mr. Hugh Wiltshire, Lakes Folly, City. |
| | James Street Methodist Church Hall | (b) | P.O. Mr. Giles Greenidge, Arthur's Gap, Carrington Village, St. Michael. |
| | | (1) | Mr. Tyrone Norville, Yearwood Road, Black Rock, St. Michael. |
| | | (2) | Miss Margaret Cook, Mahogany Lane, Bridgetown. |

BF1 Westbury Junior School (a) P.O. Mr. Darcy Neblett, Carters Gap,
Enterprise, Christ Church.
(1) Mr. Leslie Sinckler, Hindsbury Road,
St. Michael.
(2) Miss Una Clarke, Barbarees Hill,
St. Michael.

Westbury Junior School (b) P.O. Mr. Winston Stewart, Lands End,
St. Michael.
(1) Mr. Cyril Sinckler, Hindsbury Road,
St. Michael.
(2) Mrs. Yvonne Lovell, Lt. Westbury
Road, St. Michael.

Westbury Junior School (c) P.O. Mr. Clyde Williams, Codrington Hill,
St. Michael.
(1) Mr. Cecil Cumberbatch, Elizabeth
Park, Christ Church.
(2) Miss Maureen Callender, Marshall's
Gap, Baxters Road, City.

BF2 St. Mary's Infants (a) P.O. Mr. Kenneth Hurley, 11th Ave.,
Belleville; St. Michael.
School (1) Mr. Myrvil Haynes, Brittons Park,
St. Michael
(2) Mr. George Leacock, Grazettes New
Land, St. Michael.

St. Mary's Infants (b) P.O. Mr. Bruce Maycock, Howells + Road,
School St. Michael.
(1) Mr. Leroy Alder, 11th Ave.,
Belleville, St. Michael.
(2) Mr. Colin Hurley, 11th Ave.,
Belleville, St. Michael.

BG Paragon High School P.O. Mr. Robert Vaughan, Fontabelle,
St. Michael.
(1) Mr. John Jones, Cr. Government Hill
& Pine Hill Road.
(2) Mr. Robert Jones, Cr. Pinfold &
Maiden Lane, St. Michael.

Constituency of the City of Bridgetown
Bye Election 1976

Statement showing the number of Registered Voters, the number who voted together with the percentage, and the number of rejected Ballot Papers

| Station | No. of Registered Voters | No. of Persons who Voted | % | No. of votes cast for | Total votes cast | Spilt Ballot Papers | Rejected Ballot Papers |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| BA | 300 | 67 | 22.3 | 59 | 166 | 2 | - |
| BB | 838 | 204 | 24.3 | 199 | 537 | 11 | - |
| BC | 317 | 83 | 26.2 | 70 | 163 | 1 | - |
| BD | 862 | 214 | 24.8 | 190 | 486 | 1 | - |
| BE | 765 | 200 | 26.1 | 232 | 459 | 5 | - |
| BF1 | 1,386 | 345 | 24.9 | 379 | 854 | 11 | - |
| BF2 | 745 | 180 | 24.1 | 162 | 474 | 2 | - |
| BG | 479 | 119 | 24.8 | 107 | 282 | 1 | - |
| Total | 5,692 | 1,412 | 24.8 | 1,398 | 3,421 | 34 | - |

Statement showing the number and percentage of votes for each Party

| Party | No. of Votes | % | Total No. of Votes cast |
|--------|--------------|------|-------------------------|
| D.L.P. | 1,398 | 40.9 | 3,421 |
| P.F.G. | 80 | 2.3 | |
| B.L.P. | 1,872 | 54.7 | |
| P.D.M. | 56 | 1.6 | |
| U.P.P. | 15 | 0.4 | |

(Held 12th May, 1976)

BYE ELECTION 1976

Constituency of the City of Bridgetown

Statement showing the number of Registered Voters, the number who voted together with the percentage, and the number of rejected Ballot Papers

| Polling Stations | No. of Registered Voters | No. of Persons who Voted | | | No. of Votes Cast for: | | | | | Total Spoilt Ballot Papers | Rejected Ballot Papers | |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------|------------------------|-------------------|--------|-------|---------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| | | M | F | T | % | Carmichael Gilkes | Miller | Moore | Mottley | | | Cast Papers |
| BA | 300 | 67 | 101 | 168 | 56.0 | 59 | 104 | - | 1 | 166 | 2 | - |
| BB | 838 | 204 | 344 | 548 | 65.4 | 199 | 318 | 8 | 3 | 537 | 11 | - |
| BC | 317 | 83 | 81 | 164 | 51.7 | 70 | 88 | 2 | 1 | 163 | 1 | - |
| BD | 862 | 214 | 273 | 487 | 56.5 | 190 | 253 | 32 | 3 | 486 | 1 | - |
| BE | 765 | 200 | 264 | 464 | 60.7 | 232 | 212 | 7 | 1 | 459 | 5 | - |
| BF1 | 1,386 | 345 | 520 | 865 | 62.4 | 379 | 430 | 4 | 6 | 854 | 11 | - |
| BF2 | 745 | 180 | 296 | 476 | 63.9 | 162 | 302 | 2 | - | 474 | 2 | - |
| BG | 479 | 119 | 164 | 283 | 59.1 | 107 | 165 | 1 | - | 282 | 1 | - |
| Total | 5,692 | 1,412 | 2,043 | 3,455 | 60.7 | 1,398 | 1,872 | 56 | 15 | 3,421 | 34 | - |

Statement showing the number and percentage of votes for each Party

| D.L.P. | # | P.R.G. | # | B.L.P. | # | P.D.M. | # | U.P.P. | # | Total No. of Votes Cast |
|----------------|------------|----------------|--------|----------------|------------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|-------------------------|
| No. of Votes % | 1,398 40.9 | No. of Votes % | 80 2.3 | No. of Votes % | 1,872 54.7 | No. of Votes % | 56 1.6 | No. of Votes % | 15 0.4 | 3,421 |

P.P.G. = People's Pressure Group
P.D.M. = People's Democratic Movement
U.P.P. = United People's Party