



REPORT

ON THE

1985 BYE- ELECTION

IN THE

CONSTITUENCY OF ST. THOMAS

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Introduction

In accordance with the provisions of Section 47(2) of the Barbados Constitution, the Governor General issued a Writ on Monday 29th April, 1985, to fill the vacancy in the House of Assembly caused by the death of Rt. Hon. J.M.G.M. Adams, Prime Minister. The Writ appointed the 8th and 23rd May, 1985, as Nomination Day and Polling Day respectively. The 25th May, 1985, was appointed as the day by which the Writ was returnable to the Governor General.

2. This Election was the first to be supervised by the Electoral and Boundaries Commission appointed under the Barbados Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1981-24 which came into effect by proclamation on the 1st April, 1985.

Election Officers

3. In accordance with the provisions of Sections 30(2), 31 and 32(1) of the Representation of the People Act Cap. 12, the following appointments were made -

- (1) Mr. Simeon Earle - Deputy Supervisor
of Elections.
- (2) Mr. Alfred Trotman - Returning Officer.
- (3) Mr. A. Keith Estwick - Election Clerk.

4. Other appointments were also made in accordance with Section 33(1) and (2). A complete list has been attached as Appendix "A".

Notice of Election

5. The Notice of Election was published in the Barbados Advocate and Nation Newspapers on the 30th April, 1985, and the Official Gazette on the 29th April, 1985, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 3 of the House of Assembly Election Rules.

Nomination Day proceedings

6. Nomination papers were deposited with the Returning Officer, Mr. Alfred Trotman at the Holy Innocents School. The following two candidates were nominated to contest the election -

(1) Mr. Ronald J. Rock of Rock Hall,
St. Thomas, and

(2) Mr. David A.C. Simmons of 19 Neils,
St. Michael, an Attorney-At-Law.

7. Mr. Rock appointed Mr. Warwick Franklin of Oughtlands, St. Philip, as his election agent while Mr. Simmons appointed Mr. Peter Scott of Farmers, St. Thomas.

Publication of the Revised Register of Electors
and Register for Elections

8. The Revised Register of Electors was published on the 31st May, 1985, in accordance with the provisions of Section 18(1) (b) of the Representation of the People Act Cap. 12 and comprised 7 503 electors. The following revising centres were established in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 35(3) of the Registration of Electors Regulations Cap. 12 -

(1) Holy Innocents Mixed School

(2) Community Centre Rock Hall

(3) Welches Mixed School.

9. In accordance with Regulation 35A of the Regulations, the last date for the receipt of claims was fixed as 8th May, while 13th May, 1985, was fixed as the last date for the receipt of objections.

10. Lists setting out the names of persons who filed claims were prepared daily and made available for inspection by members of the public. Objections filed were also made available for public inspection. There were two hundred and sixteen (216) objections filed, of which one hundred and eighteen (118) were successful. Many of those unsuccessful were attributed to inadequate information submitted by the objectors.

11. The Register of Electors was published on the 19th May, 1985, and comprised seven thousand, six hundred and eighteen (7 618) electors.

Polling Stations

12. The buildings selected as Polling Stations within the Constituency were as follows -

<u>Polling District</u>	<u>Location</u>
TA1	Sharon Mixed School
TA2	Welches Mixed School
TA3	Bagatelle Pavilion
TB1	St. Thomas Mixed School
TB2	Community Centre Rock Hall
TB3	Church of God of Prophecy Church Gap, Hillaby
TC1	United Pentecostal Faith Church, Vault Road
TC2	Challenor School Canefield
TC3	Hillaby Mixed School
TD1	Church of the Nazarene Shop Hill
TD2	Holy Innocents Mixed School
TE1	Wesleyan Holiness Church Proute
TE2	Church of God Welchman Hall

Election Circulars

13. In an effort to ensure that all electors within the constituency were fully aware of the locations of their respective polling stations, a computerised circular was sent to each elector providing the necessary information.

14. However four hundred and ninety-three (493) of the seven thousand, six hundred and eighteen (7 618) issued were returned to the Electoral Office by the postal authorities as undelivered.

Polling Day proceedings

15. 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.

16. In general, polling was orderly. There was some frustration by voters who had to wait for sometime to cast their ballots at the polling stations located in the Community Centre building at Rock Hall. This situation arose as a result of unsatisfactory seating arrangements by the election officials at these stations. The Presiding Officers were seated too far away from the Poll Clerks at the entrance and as such the names of voters had to be repeated on numerous occasions.

17. In addition residents of the Gordon Cummins Hospital had to be assisted by the Presiding Officers in casting their votes and this also contributed to the problems at these stations.

18. The Police as usual were responsible for the transportation of the Ballot Boxes from the polling stations to the Counting Centre at Holy Innocents School. Unfortunately, all of the boxes did not arrive at the Counting Centre before the scheduled start of the count, thereby causing a delay in the commencement. It was revealed subsequently that some of the vehicles had to make more than one journey.

19. The Returning Officer had selected the older section of the school as the location where the votes would have been counted, but this was rejected as unsuitable since the new wing provided far better accommodation for all involved in the process, including the media.

20. The counting of the votes commenced at 8.35 p.m. just over half an hour late and ended at 12.40 a.m. on 24th May, 1985. Mr. David Simmons of the Barbados Labour Party was the successful candidate with 3 036 votes while the other candidate Mr. Ronald Rock of the Democratic Labour Party polled 2 533 votes. There were 36 rejected ballot papers.

Storage of Election Documents

21. The documents have been stored with the Registrar in accordance with the provisions of Rule 56(2) of the House of Assembly Rules.

Returns of Election Expenses

22. The returns of Election Expenses were filed within the statutory period set out by Section 52(1) of the Act. These returns have been delivered to the Registrar in accordance with the provisions of Section 60(2) of the Act. Each candidate was allowed to incur expenses up to a maximum of \$7 618 in accordance with the provisions of Section 48(2) of the Act.

23. The following is a summary of the candidates election expenses:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Date of Receipt</u>
Mr. Ronald J. Rock	5 782.80	1985-07-05
Mr. David A.C. Simmons	6 120.12	1985-07-09

Election Statistics

24. Appendix "B" presents in some detail the results of the election -

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

Summary of the Cost of the Election

25. The expenditure in respect of the election amounted to \$22 489.87. An analysis of this total is set out below:-

	\$
Election Officers	7 000.00
Clerical Assistance	6 736.03
Travelling	2 006.32
Rental of Buildings	1 800.00
Publishing Notices	1 390.67
Fees for Island Constables	440.00
Rental of Coaches for transporting Ballot Boxes	2 000.00
Marking Roads	460.35
Police	470.70
Miscellaneous	185.80
TOTAL	<u>22 489.87</u>

26. Mr. Alfred Trotman Returning Officer submitted claims totalling \$1 100 for the erection of booths, transportation of chairs and cleaning shools all in connection with the election. These were however rejected as no bills or statements were presented to support the claims.

GeneralComments on the Returning Officer's Report of Proceedings

27. The comments made by the Returning Officer at paragraphs 13 to 16 are as follows:-

"13. A check of the Presiding Officer's Ballot Paper Accounts for the 13.

Polling Stations in this Constituency disclosed That:

~~All their Ballot Paper Accounts were correct~~

OR

All the Ballot Paper Accounts were correct with the exception of the undermentioned in which the discrepancies set out hereunder were observed:

TB1 (a) Ballot Box contained 1 ballot paper more than was recorded

TC1 (a) Ballot Box contained 220 ballots but 222 were recorded

TC1 (b) Ballot Box contained 228 ballots but 226 were recorded.

14. Discipline:

- (a) At Nomination: Good
- (b) At Polling Stations: Good
- (c) At the counting of the Votes: Good

15. Observations as to the state of the election papers as received from the Presiding Officers. Satisfactory.

16. General Remarks:

The Presiding Officers reported that they experienced no problems during the course of the day. In my opinion, the whole exercise was well executed."

Complaint against the Police

28. The Commissioner of Police was notified of the shabby treatment meted out by members of the Police to the Chairman and another member of the Commission when they attended the Counting Centre at Holy Innocents' School, although their vehicles bore special stickers agreed upon by the Police.

29. An apology was extended to the Commission and assurance given that there will not be a recurrence.

Adverse reports on Mr. Trotman

30. A candidate at the election registered complaints with the Commission relating to the conduct of Mr. Trotman Returning Officer for the Constituency.

31. Investigations carried out exonerated Mr. Trotman on all charges except one in which he was entirely to be blamed.

Acknowledgement

32. I wish to extend sincere thanks to the staff of the Data Processing Unit, the Government Printing Office, the Commissioner of Police as well as staff of the Electoral Office for their willing assistance and co-operation.

Dennis A. Smith
 DENNIS A. SMITH
 Supervisor of Elections.

CONSTITUENCY OF ST. THOMASLIST OF ELECTION OFFICERS - PRESIDING OFFICERS

TA1	Sharon Mixed School	(1)	Daphne Holder, Nr. Sharon, St. Thomas.
		(2)	Elizabeth Arthur, Welches Terrace, St. Thomas.
TA2	Welches Mixed School	(1)	Maureen Belle, Westmoreland, St. James.
		(2)	Doris Gajadhar, Arthur Seat, St. Thomas.
TA3	Bagatelle Pavilion	(1)	Pshawnetta Robinson, Arch Hall, St. Thomas.
		(2)	Mildred Payne, Cave Hill, St. Michael.
TB1	St. Thomas Mixed School	(1)	Eunice Springer, Baywood, St. James.
		(2)	Whitfield Brathwaite, Wanstead Gardens, St. Michael.
TB2	Community Centre, Rock Hall	(1)	DaCosta Vaughan, Spring Farm, St. Thomas.
		(2)	Samuel Edwards, Bagatelle, St. Thomas.
TB3	Church of God of Prophecy, Church Gap, Hillaby	(1)	Mark Broomes, Hillaby, St. Thomas.
TC1	United Pentecostal Faith Church, Vault Road	(1)	Marcia Boyce, Greenwich Village, St. James.
		(2)	Ocie Springer, Welchman Hall, St. Thomas.
TC2	Challenor House, Canefield	(1)	Gerston Clarke, 14D Crestview Terrace, Eden Lodge, St. Michael.

/. TC3 ...

TC3	Hillaby Mixed School	(1)	Earl Brathwaite, Sion Hill, St. James.
TD1	Church of the Nazarene, Shop Hill	(1)	George Clarke, Warrens Terrace, St. Thomas.
		(1)	Althea Clarke, Hopewell, St. Thomas.
TD2	Holy Innocent's Mixed School	(1)	Angela Applewhite, Bridgefield, St. Thomas.
TE1	Wesleyan Holiness Church, Proute	(1)	Alfred Gibson,, Vaucluse Tenantry, St. Thomas.
		(2)	Timothy Chandler, Hillaby, St. Thomas.
TE2	Church of God, Welchman Hall	(1)	Alfred Drakes, Welchman Hall, St. Thomas.
		(2)	Grovel Drakes, Farmers, St. Thomas.
		(1)	Community Centre, Rock Hall
		(2)	Church of God of Prophecy, Church Gap, Hillaby
		(1)	United Pentecostal Faith Church, Vault Road
		(2)	Challenger House, Canfield

CONSTITUENCY OF ST. THOMASLIST OF ELECTION OFFICERS - POLL CLERKS

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| TA1 | Sharon Mixed School | (a) | (1) | Michael Lewis,
Arthur Seat, St. Thomas. |
| | | | (2) | Cora Price,
Arthur Seat, St. Thomas. |
| | | (b) | (1) | Audrey Harper,
Jackson, St. Michael. |
| | | | (2) | Marcia Alleyne,
Arch Hall, St. Thomas. |
| TA2 | Welches Mixed School | (a) | (1) | Linda Clarke,
University Drive,
Cave Hill, St. Michael. |
| | | | (2) | Delisle Smith,
Redmans Village, St. Thomas. |
| | | (b) | (1) | Overton Johnson,
Bagatelle, St. Thomas. |
| | | | (2) | Anthea Armstrong,
Kew Land, Nr. Bagatelle,
St. Thomas. |
| TA3 | Bagatelle Pavilion | (a) | (1) | Marva Johnson,
Nr. River Bay, St. Lucy. |
| | | | (2) | Wendell Piggott,
Bennetts Tenantry,
St. Thomas. |
| | | (b) | (1) | Colleen Price,
Arthur Seat, St. Thomas. |
| | | | (2) | Carlisle Applewhaite,
Kew Land, St. Thomas. |
| TB1 | St. Thomas Mixed School | (a) | (1) | Linda Brathwaite,
Reeves Hill, St. Thomas. |
| | | | (2) | Carlisle Mascoll,
66 Rock Dundo Park,
St. Michael. |
| | | (b) | (1) | Eric Stuart,
Farmers, St. Thomas. |
| | | | (2) | Jesford Francis,
Gilkes Village, St. James. |

/. TB2 ...

TB2 Community Centre, Rock Hall (a) (1) Marion Downes, Rock Hall, St. Thomas.
 (2) Rosemary Harris, Spring Farm, St. Thomas.

(b) (1) Vere Rouse, Holders Hill, St. James.
 (2) Natalie Wilson, Greenwich Village, St. James.

TB3 Church of God of Prophecy, Church Gap, Hillaby (d) (1) Albert Farnum, Church Gap, Hillaby, St. Thomas.

(2) Montelle Chandler, Hillaby, St. Thomas.

TC1 United Pentecostal Faith Church, Vault Road (a) (1) Verneta Boyce, Allen View, St. Thomas.

(2) Evadne Robinson, Sturges, St. Thomas.

(b) (1) Elise Gaskin, Greenwich, St. James.

(2) Cynthia Gibson, Bryan Road, St. Thomas.

TC2 Challenor House, Canefield (a) (1) Chesterfield Burnett, Baywood, St. James.

(2) Barbara Watson, Hillaby, St. Andrew.

TC3 Hillaby Mixed School (d) (1) Yvette Sobers, Hill Road, Bank Hall, St. Michael.

(2) Jennifer Scott, Airy Cot, St. Thomas.

(a) (1) Linda Brathwaite, Reeves Hill, St. Thomas.

(2) Carlisle Mascoff, 88 Rock Dundo Park, St. Michael.

/. TD1 ...

(b) (1) Eric Stuart, Farmers, St. Thomas.

(2) Jostford Francis, Glickes Village, St. James.

- TD1 Church of the Nazarene, (a) (1) Aileen Broome,
Shop Hill Mt. Standfast, St. James.
- (2) Anthony Christie,
Shop Hill, St. Thomas.
- (b) (1) Marva Griffith,
Cane Garden, St. Thomas.
- (2) Steve Lewis,
Edgehill, St. Thomas.
- TD2 Holy Innocent's Mixed School (1) Veronica McClean,
Eden Lodge, St. Michael.
- (2) June Bannister,
Mt. Standfast, St. James.
- TE1 Wesleyan Holiness Church, (a) (1) Odulia Regis,
Proute Cane Garden, St. Michael.
- (2) Maxine Price,
Edgehill, St. Thomas.
- (b) (1) Monica Holloway,
Arthur Seat, St. Thomas.
- (2) Courtney Harewood,
Strong Hope, St. Thomas.
- TE2 Church of God, (a) (1) Daisy Browne,
Welchman Hall Welchman Hall, St. Thomas.
- (2) Cathlene Dyall,
Sturges, St. Thomas.
- (b) (1) Patrick Alleyne,
Vault Road, St. Thomas.
- (2) Myrlene Glasgow,
Bryan Road, St. Thomas.

APPENDIX "B"

CONSTITUENCY OF ST. THOMAS - BY-ELECTION

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS, THE NUMBER WHO VOTED TOGETHER WITH THE PERCENTAGE AND THE NUMBER OF REJECTED BALLOT PAPERS

Polling Station	Number of Electors						%	Number of Votes Cast For			
	On Register of Electors		Total	Who cast their Votes		Total		Rock	Simmons	Total Votes Cast	Rejected Ballot Papers
	Male	Female		Male	Female						
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female					
TA1	765	363	402	518	240	278	67.7	263	253	516	2
TA2	764	373	391	535	258	277	70.0	250	284	534	1
TA3	658	329	329	496	234	262	75.4	214	281	495	1
TB1	557	277	280	407	205	202	73.0	143	263	406	1
TB2	935	456	479	712	348	364	76.1	278	422	700	12
TB3	376	201	175	286	145	141	76.1	101	184	285	1
TC1	642	300	342	448	211	237	69.8	213	234	447	1
TC2	382	189	193	325	161	164	85.1	113	210	323	2
TC3	285	138	147	221	106	115	77.5	67	153	220	1
TD1	549	255	294	395	179	216	71.9	206	188	394	1
TD2	302	139	163	241	113	128	79.8	107	134	241	-
TE1	590	311	279	426	216	210	72.2	223	199	422	4
TE2	813	379	434	595	279	316	73.2	355	231	586	9
TOTAL	7 618	3 710	3 908	5 605	2 695	2 910	73.5	2 533	3 036	5 569	36

APPENDIX "B" (CONT'D)STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE
OF VOTERS FOR EACH PARTY

BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY		DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY	
<u>No. of Votes</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>No. of Votes</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
3 036	54.5	2 533	45.5

