

Miss Donna Ortega
C/o Miss Jennifer Grant
RJR News Room

Clo R.J.R.

November 12, 1995

PAJ National Journalism Awards, 1995

Dear Miss Ortega,

Herewith my reactions to this years Opinion and Commentary entries:

1) The Philip Sherlock series FOUNDATIONS OF NATIONHOOD stands out head and shoulders above the rest of this year's entries. They are instructive and inspiring; and I hope they are destined for a more permanent form of publication later. The question is: Does this series belong among entries for a competitive journalism award? Sherlock is a distinguished historian and scholar and I wonder how I, when I was a very young journalist, would have felt about having to compete with such an outstanding veteran who is not even a practising journalist. On sober reflection, it might be an inspiration.

2) The Ken Chaplin piece is a welcome, well-written, well-documented counter to the fashionable 'politician bashing' of our days. I think it deserves wider notice.

The rest of the entries are average 'journeyman' stuff. Carl Wint's journey to the year 2,000 begins interesting enough with a delightful vision of the fantastic transformation of Kingston and its surrounding. And then you remember that the year 2,000 is only five years away and the things he conjectures - elegant free ports, 24-hour rail service, unemployment at around 0.5%, clean streets, no beggars - cannot be achieved in that time. It is unreal.

Masil Walters on Rasta is interesting but the Ethiopian Orthodox Church has never accepted the 'divinity' of the line of Haile Selassie and we do not want to perpetuate the myth, however obliquely.

Two lots of editorials: one from the Gleaner, the other from the Sunday Gleaner; disparate and with no common theme or thread running through them. You may recall The Twin City Sun editorials of last year which had that common thread of the community and its problems and which painted such a graphic picture. These are nothing like that.

Finally, should the PAJ note, in passing, the need for much more sub-editing of material which finds its way into print? I remember a time when all copy was carefully cleaned before going into print. Head lines were checked against stories; spelling was always correct. Sub-editing standards have declined badly. We need to comment.

Sincerely

Peter Abrahams



PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

PROFESSIONAL CENTRE OF JAMAICA

2³/₄ RUTHVEN ROAD, KINGSTON 10, TEL: 926-62434

or Donna Ortega 922-3400-9
(Gleaner Co.)

October 20, 1995

Mr. Peter Abrahams
c/o RJR
32 Lyndhurst Road
Kingston 5

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Dear Mr. Abrahams:

The Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) invites your assistance in judging the entries in the 1995 NATIONAL Journalism Awards Competition.

This year, it is proposed to evaluate the submissions during a meeting convened to deal with each medium, as a group, with the judges making their recommendations at the end of the day as follows:

Judging of Newspaper entries, Nov. 4 at RJR's Board Room
Judging of Radio/TV entries, Nov. 11 at CARIMAC

The results will then be collated by the awards committee for presentation at the annual banquet on November 24.

We are attempting to implement new procedures this year in keeping with discussions with the various media houses to improve efficiency and transparency in the management of the competition. Guidelines which have been drafted will be made available to you.

In addition, we are inviting you to advise the Secretary of those items of work which appeared in the media between September 30 1994 and September 30, 1995 which, in your opinion, should be considered in the evaluation.

We look forward to your assistance with this competition.

Yours sincerely,
PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

Donna Ortega
Secretary

Miss Donna Ortega
C/o Miss Jennifer Grant

November 6, 1994

PAJ National Journalism Awards, 1994

Dear Miss Ortega,

I begin with an old gripe, which, after last year's submissions I thought had been settled. We seem to be back to people gathering up everything they had written for the year and shoving at the PAJ without any selecting or sorting out. So we have 17 pieces from Mr. Martin Henry, 15 pieces from Mr. Kingale Alexander, and 10 pieces from Mr. Pete Sankey. I referred to this type of 'dumping' in my reports of 1988 and 1992, and was relieved to see an apparent halt to it in 1993. But here it is back again. Please insist that the media houses do their own pre-selection and submit to the PAJ only the three or four best pieces in their judgement of any one particular entrant.

Opinion Journalism: Barbara Gloudon, Carolyn Cooper and Jean Lowrie-Chin all compelled my respectful attention by the delicacy of touch they brought to serious social commentary. The humour and lightness of touch sharpened the impact of their comments. Of the three Lowrie-Chin was a first-time encounter for me. They all deserve to be honoured.

Editorials:

- a) The two Herald editorials on Mr. Seaga and 13 Tivoli Gardens 'ringleaders' represented the kind of bold and challenging editorial writing that is all too rare these days.
- b) The nine editorial entries of the Twin City Sun add up to a rare justification for such multiple entries. As a body they give a clear feel of the community and its multi-faceted problems and the role the paper plays in the tackling of those problems. There is no similar entry for The News, the other important community newspaper performing a similar role. So I would suggest that both the Twin City Sun and The News be recognised for their outstanding editorial contributions to community development.

Community Services: Twin City Sun entered a series 'Time For Making Home Improvements' which provides the kind of useful advice and tips which add up to important community services. Again though there is no entry from The News, it too provides similar services about health, about the dangers of smoking, about youth; all matters of profound importance to communities. Perhaps it is time the PAJ took special note of the special services provided by the community newspapers.

Yours sincerely

Peter Abrahams

Donna E. Ortega

P.O. Box 576, Kingston 10

Telephone: 968-9410

1 Oxford Park Ave Kgn. 5
FAX: 968-9238

October 30, 1994

Mr. Peter Abrahams
c/o Radio Jamaica
32 Lyndhurst Road
Kingston 5

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

The Press Association of Jamaica is once again inviting you to assist in judging entries for the National Journalism Awards 1994.

We are enclosing entries for your consideration, and would appreciate if you submit a brief report on the results.

I can be contacted at the above address.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Donna E. Ortega
Donna Ortega



NATIONAL JOURNALISM AWARDS

**ENTRIES CLOSE TO THE SECRETARY, PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA
2 3/4 RUTHVEN ROAD, KINGSTON 10, ON OCTOBER 25, 1994.**

The entries must be published or broadcast between October 1, 1993 and September 30, 1994.

1. CATEGORIES

Awards will be granted in six (6) general categories:

- 1) Subject areas/Journalistic categories
- 2) Technical Skills
- 3) Outstanding Public Service
- 4) Small Publications
- 5) Special Awards
- 6) Most Outstanding Journalist

2. SUBJECT AREAS

Awards will be granted to an individual or production crews for outstanding journalist work categorized under each of the following subjects:

- 1) Investigative Journalism (top award)
- 2) Opinion journalism (commentary, opinion writing, news analysis)
- 3) News
- 4) Culture
- 5) Sports
- 6) Human Interest
- 7) Business & Commerce
- 8) Agriculture
- 9) Children
- 10) Health

In determining what entries are outstanding, the judges will consider the following factors:

- a) Sustained and outstanding public service in terms of journalistic excellence.
- b) Suitability to the medium under assessment.
- c) use of special skills to improve production/text, e.g. satire, drama and graphics.
- d) Achieving and maintaining high levels of public interest.
- e) Research

3. OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

This award is open to any medium and made to the journalist or media crew who, in the opinion of the judges, have written or produced (audio visual or print) work that constitutes the most outstanding public service.

In determining what entries are outstanding, the following factors will be considered:

- a) demonstrable public impact
- b) superiority of style
- c) authenticity and content
- d) accumulative work

4. TECHNICAL SKILLS

Awards will be granted to an individual or crews in all media for exemplary work in the following areas:

- Photography--news, human interest
- Engineering
- Editing
- Research
- Presentation/delivery
- Graphics
- Cartoons

Entries in sub-editing category must be substantiated by edited copy.

5. SMALL PUBLICATIONS

This award will be granted to any publication which is adjudged outstanding. In determining what publication is outstanding, the judges will consider the following factors:

- a) Outstanding public service - sectoral/community
- b) Excellence in production - writing style, editing, layout and content.

6. SPECIAL AWARDS

The judges will consider granting special award(s) for outstanding work which do not necessarily fall in any of the above prescribed categories. In determining what work falls into this category, the following factors will be considered:

- a) Outstanding public service
- b) Sustained (accumulative excellence in standard over time)
- c) Emphasis on such work on the periphery of Journalism, e.g. columnists, commentators, D.J.'s, Radio/Television presenters and broadcasters
- d) Outstanding contribution to a particular sector or body of information

7. MOST OUTSTANDING JOURNALIST

Selection of the person adjudged to be the most outstanding Journalist will be on the basis of work submitted by monitors, including those at media houses. Emphasis will be placed on sustained, exemplary work.

The National Committee reserves the right NOT to make awards if it considers that work submitted is not outstanding.

Press Association of Jamaica

4/11/93

Miss Claire Forrester
PAJ C/o Miss Jennifer Grant
RJR News Room

NATIONAL JOURNALISM AWARDS, 1993

Dear Claire: Herewith my reactions to this year's entries.

- I note with pleasure the apparent pre-selection instead of just chucking everything in.

Of the three offerings I received the group of pieces by Michael Manley stand out and would, under normal circumstances, cop the award hands down. The Selection Committee may indeed so decide. But I set out my own personal concerns. Michael Manley holds a very special place in Jamaican affairs: the first Prime Minister to have stepped down voluntarily while in power and with minimal pressure from party or people; a great upholder of press freedom (despite that march on North Street) and the best friend the PAJ has had in any Prime Minister of the past thirty-odd years. So the PAJ, and the news media in general, have good cause for wanting to honour this most distinguished of living Jamaican politicians. The point is he is still primarily a politician despite his withdrawal from public political office. He is seen as such and accepted as such both here and throughout the region as well as in the wider world. Which is why they wanted him to be part of that monitoring group to Haiti, and to undertake that job for regional tourism, and why he travels to many places to talk. His writings, too, are part and parcel of his ongoing political activity, in much the same way that Churchill's writings were. I do not think it serves the best interests of either Jamaican journalism or what these awards are intended to achieve or, indeed, the high reputation of Michael Manley that he should be honoured by way of this kind of contest among Jamaican journalists. I think he deserves very special, uncompetitive, recognition and honour from the PAJ for his contribution to press freedom and his special support of the PAJ over a very long time.

Rhoma Tomlinson's "Ordeal at Barnett Street" is more a human interest feature story than a piece of opinion journalism. It is good of its kind though rather carelessly written.

Owen Baptiste brings a refreshing perspective and welcome light touch, free of the usual nastiness, to his debunking of the pomposity of some of our longstanding columnists. I think he should be noted in some way; and I hope he begins a new trend in lightly handled critical commentary,

Best wishes

Peter Abrahams



17 June 1993

Dear Member,

This is to remind you that your annual subscription of one hundred (\$100), to the Press Association of Jamaica becomes due on July 1, 1993. This should be paid to the Secretary, or forwarded to her through any member of the PAJ Executive.

Please note that if your subscription is not paid by July 31, the Association's constitution requires that you be 'deemed and declared' a non-financial member, (Section 8.3). In the event of this happening, then a re-application for membership and the payment of all outstanding subscription(s) may become necessary.

Please pay in your subscription early so that your membership will be up to date and also to facilitate an orderly tidying up of this year's activities. Additionally, it should be borne in mind that these funds are our association's main source of income.

You may contact the secretary at 927-1511.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Clare A. Forrester', written over a dotted line.

Clare A. Forrester
Secretary

November 7, 1992

Miss Claire Forrester,
Secretary, PAJ

National Journalism Awards, 1992

Dear Claire: Herewith this year's entries for the annual PAJ Awards.

I start with an old gripe going back to my assessments of 1988 when a group of journalists (mainly from the Gleaner) gathered almost everything they had written during the year and dumped it on the PAJ for selection. Please see my note of November 20, 1988. This time you sent me twenty-six pieces by Carl Wint; most of them with lottery-style multiple category entries: Opinion journalism/Outstanding journalism/Public Service. Wint is too experienced a journalist for this kind of scattershot approach. I think it was in the last Awards that the PAJ honoured him. Unless you want to repeat the honour for sustained professional competence there is nothing really new or striking in this wad of unselectively put together material. May I urge the committee to suggest to media houses and journalists alike that they desist using the PAJ Awards as a kind of lottery drum for random selection. Selection should begin with them, inhouse, and only the best sent to us.

- 1) Man in Prison for 23 years without trial compelled my attention and I wanted to ask if Glenroy Sinclair has anything further to tell us. Has the man 'Huddie' O'Brien been released since? If he has Sinclair could just claim to have influenced the event and would be deserving of the top award for Investigative Journalism. I suggest a departure from the norm to check out this point and so round off the story.
- 2) Misha Lobban's Shame of May Pen Cemetery is a case-study of the need for editorial guidance and assistance. As the story stands it is a well-researched horror story. If an editor or supervisor had suggested going deeper - how to cope with matter in both the short and long run - we would have grappled with what to do about the use of prime real estate for cemeteries in a context of an expanding population demanding more living room in a very finite physical environment: the same land area to house more of the living and more of the dead. Whose interest should come first? How do you deal with that? This could have been a piece of real investigative journalism.
- 3) Will A. Pluck's Caribbean Art Reflecting Moral Decay is the kind of 'social' and art criticism we can happily do without. It is pompous, self-important and dismissive and that does not serve any worthwhile interest other than to show just how bright and smart I am. Shades of Andrew Hope with slightly less literary skills. I'm sorry but this one made me angry. You sent me no Investor's Choice piece on Woemn.

I am most interested in the answer to the Glenroy Sinclair story.

Best wishes



PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

PROFESSIONAL CENTRE OF JAMAICA
2¼ RUTHVEN ROAD, KINGSTON 10, TEL: 92-62434

3 December 1991

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Mr. Peter Abrahams
c/o Radio Jamaica Limited
32 Lyndhurst Road
Kingston 5

Dear Mr. Abrahams:

Many thanks once again for your support with the annual Awards exercise. We realise that you had limited time to consider the submissions with which you were presented, but nevertheless, based on the reports, you managed very well.

The PAJ's Executive wants you to know how grateful we are and would hope that we can continue to rely on your cooperation in 1992.

Please accept our regards and best wishes for a pleasant holiday season.

Sincerely yours,


Clare A. Forrester
SECRETARY

CAF/ffj

October 26/10/91

Ms Claire Forrester
Secretary, PAJ
C/o Ms Jennifer Grant
RJR Newsroom

National Journalism Awards

Dear Claire,

I found this year's batch of entries (at least those you sent me) much less interesting than in previous years.

Though your folder said 'Investigative' what I received were six opinion entries and three investigative entries.

OPINION: 1) Some Female DJs - No selfrespect
2) Temporary Insanity

Both by Joan Fagan and both rather superficial treatment of very serious problems concerning women in our society. In other hand, I think, these may have been worthy of recognition. Perhaps this (young?) journalist would benefit from a few consciousness-raising sessions with groups like the Sistren collective. The James Ingram bit is pure pr stuff.

The group of entries by Balford Henry in this category is, by contrast, wholly professional, as is to be expected of a senior journalist from the Gleaner. I did, however, sense a certain timidity in expressing his own views and criticisms in what are, after all, supposed to be 'opinion pieces'. I found him very much stronger in his "Behind the Mace" series where he often shed revealing and at times delightful light on the goings on in the nation's Parliament. I would like to see him 'recognised' for this series - though I doubt that it can be called 'Opinion Journalism'.

INVESTIGATIVE:

- 1) Hurricane Zinc Galore by Sheila Watson sheds an interesting rural light on one of our nastiest scandals and is good journalism - but the story is still to be completed
- 2) Victoria Jubilee a Fire Trap by Claire Clarke. Did anything come out of her story? Did she follow it up? Is the place any safer? I would like to know.
- 3) I Spy Drugs etc by Delroy A Whyte-Hall is a mixed bag and so hard to judge. The second part of the drug story was not included. The piece on untrained morticians is alarming and demands a follow-up that would lead to the proper training and licensing of morticians - so it's another unfinished story.



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24-11-'90

Mr. Peter Abrahams
c/o RJR
Lyndhurst Rd.,
Kgn. 5

Dear Peter,

Many thanks for your cooperation once again in the judging of the annual National Journalism awards and congratulations on a job well done. We realise that much was required of you over what was in fact a very short period to undertake this exercise and we are grateful that you were able to come through as you did.

As you know the presentation banquet is on Saturday December 8 at the Devonshire, Devon House. The guest speaker will be Mr. Gill Noble, many-times US award winning journalist.

Again, many, many thanks for all your help and we sincerely trust that you will find it possible to attend the presentation function.

Sincerely,


Claire A. Forrester
Secretary

NATIONAL JOURNALISM AWARDS

ENTRIES CLOSE TO THE SECRETARY, PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA, 2 3/4 RUTHVEN ROAD, KINGSTON 10, ON OCTOBER 19, 1991.

The entries must be published or broadcast between October 1, 1990 and September 30, 1991.

1. CATEGORIES

Awards will be granted in six (6), general categories:

- 1) Subject areas/Journalistic categories
- 2) Technical skills
- 3) Outstanding Public Service
- 4) Small Publications
- 5) Special Awards
- 6) Most Outstanding Journalist

2. SUBJECT AREAS

Awards will be granted to individuals or production crews for outstanding journalistic work categorized under each of the following subjects:

- 1) Investigative Journalism (top award)
- 2) Opinion Journalism (Commentary, Opinion Writing, News Analysis)
- 3) News
- 4) Culture
- 5) Sports
- 6) Human Interest
- 7) Business & Commerce
- 8) Agriculture

In determining what entries are outstanding, the judges will consider the following factors:

- 1) Sustained and outstanding public service in terms of journalistic excellence.
- 2) Suitability to the medium under assessment.
- 3) Use of special skills to improve production/text e.g. satire, drama, graphics.
- 4) Achieving and maintaining high levels of public interest.
- 5) Research

3. OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

This award is open to any medium and made to the journalist or media crew who, in the opinion of the judges, have written or produced (audio/visual or print) work that constitute the most outstanding public service. In determining what entries are outstanding, the following factors will be considered:

- a) demonstrate public impact
- b) superiority of style
- c) authenticity and content
- d) accumulative work

4. TECHNICAL SKILLS

Awards will be granted to individuals or crews in all media for exemplary work in the following areas:

Photography

Engineering

Editing

Research

Presentation/delivery

Graphics

Cartoons

Entries in the sub-editing category must be substantiated by edited copy.

5. SMALL PUBLICATIONS

Community Newspapers
Newsletters
Magazines

This award will be granted to any publication which is adjudged outstanding. In determining what publication is outstanding, the judges will consider the following factors:

- a) Outstanding public service - sectoral/community;
- b) Excellence in production - writing style, editing, layout, content.

6. SPECIAL AWARDS

The judges will consider granting special award(s) for outstanding work which do not necessarily fall in any of the above prescribed categories. In determining what work falls into this category, the following factors will be considered:

- 1) Outstanding public service
- 2) Sustained (accumulative) excellence in standard over time)
- 3) Emphasis on such work on the periphery of Journalism
eg. columnists, commentators, D.J.'s, Radio/TV
Presenters/Broadcasters.
- 4) Outstanding contribution to a particular sector or body
of information.

7. MOST OUTSTANDING JOURNALIST

Selection of the Most Outstanding Journalist will be on the basis of work submitted by monitors, including those at media houses. Emphasis will be placed on sustained, exemplary work.

NOTE

Each entry must be endorsed by a media house monitor or, a senior editor, or at least two PAJ members in good standing.

The National Committee reserves the right NOT to make award if it considers that work submitted is not outstanding.

Phone: 0944-2580

October 25, 1990

Miss Claire Forrester
Secretary, PAJ.

Dear Claire,

1990 National Journalism Awards

The most interesting and welcome thing about the batch of entries you sent me this year is exemplified by the Yvonne Grinam entry

"Woman to Woman"

The idea of a serious, no-nonsense weekly page on matters concerning women and their interests and concerns without the usual playing up to the dominant malevalue system is refreshing indeed. And the Grinam series on Amy Bailey and her life and works is as pointed an example of this welcome development as you could want. I think you want to find out who the actual originator(s) of the page is/are and consider whether PAJ should not give her/them a special award. The difficulty is that the RECORD, too, carries such a section; indeed Daphne assures me the RECORD started the whole trend to this more serious ~~fixxxxx~~news ~~xxxxx~~ and feature treatment of and by women of matters concerning women. But you only sent me the Gleaner entry, so the Awards Committee will have to decide whether there is some way special recognition could be given the entire print medium for this welcome development. That is, of course, if the Committee agrees. I think too that the PAJ should consider, in light of the passing of Miss Amy, and Cynthia Wilmot's and the Sistern Collective's "Miss Amy & Miss May", whether this year's awards should not somehow highlight the women in our society. I personally am very happy about all the indications of the women themselves asserting their place and rights without any of the 'anti' postures we find ~~xxx~~ in the European women's liberation movements. Our history, our experiences, our perceptions are different.

For the rest, Carl Wint and Wyvolyn Gager are competent professional 'old hands' who could be honourably mentioned if you so wish. Vanessa Smith, on the other hand, reads like a young new entry into the profession who is interested in digging up the news. If this is so then I suggest some form of encouragement: we need to encourage the young bright ones who enter the profession, if only to spur them on to greater effort.

As ever

Peter Abrahams

Monday, 22-10-'90

Dear Peter,

Thanks again for agreeing to help. Please note the following enclosed entries:

News

1. Wyvolyn Gager
2. Anastasia Smith

Public Service

1. Yvonne Grinnan
2. carl Wint
3. Linvern Barrett

Opinion Journalism

1. Cecelia Campbell

Sincerely,



Claire

UWI Libraries



PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

PROFESSIONAL CENTRE OF JAMAICA
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15-7-'90

Dear Member,

The 48th Annual General Meeting of the Press Association of Jamaica is scheduled to be held on Sunday, August 26 at the Radio Jamaica Sports Club, 32 Lyndhurst Road, Kingston 5, starting at 10:00 a.m.

Please note the following not proposed constitutional amendment to the AGM :

Section 8

1. Members shall pay an entrance fee and Annual Subscription of One hundred Dollars.

If you have not done so as yet, please forward your subscription fee to the Secretary as soon as possible to facilitate the tidying up of the Association's affairs. Also PLEASE endeavour to be punctual for the meeting on Sunday, August 26.

Sincerely,

Claire A. Forrester
Secretary



PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

PROFESSIONAL CENTRE OF JAMAICA
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JOAN JOHNSON

29/6/'90

Dear Peter

The Executive is scheduling a meeting with the trustees of our Association on Monday at 5:00 p.m. Venue of the meeting is the office of Communication Consultants Limited, 2 Balmoral Avenue. This is located at the corner of Balmoral and Half Way Tree Roads.

The meeting is being called to appraise you of the Association's financial status, particularly the Trustee Account, prior to forwarding this information to the Association's auditors. It is also being called to provide us with an opportunity to justify a short term loan from the Trustee account to the general account.

We would be grateful if you would find it possible to attend.

Sincerely,

Claire A. Forrester
Secretary

Agreed to proposed loan
by note of 2/7/90.

5/11/89

Dear Claire

PAJ National Journalism Awards

Sorry about the delay in returning enclosed with my comments. It was, as I told you on Friday, due to receiving your package one whole week later than you delivered it. The RJ excuse is chaos at the front-desk during the move for the rebuilding programme now on. Anyway, here are my comments belatedly:

- 1) INVESTIGATIVE: Garfield Grandison's series of three on 'lead Poisoning' struck as the most important in this category. It is part of the critical problem we face on the environment - economic development versus the degradation of the environment and the quality of human life in Jamaica. This one is bound to loom larger with time and the growth of the population and its needs in a finite physical environment, so the more information on it the better. I think PAJ should encourage the interests of younger journalists in this subject and an award and recognition might help do that. The journalist in this case has also done his homework well.
- 2) OPINION: The TWIN CITY SUN's series of eight editorials between October 1988 and the beginning of August 1989 make refreshing reading on a wide variety of topics as seen from a community perspective. The topic ranges from the state of the insurance business after 'Gilbert', through public transport, local government, the death penalty, to national politics, all handled as we rarely find in our national dailies. The community orientation gives it its distinction.
- 3) PUBLIC SERVICE: The very long 'Election Eye' series by Carl Wint was professional and competent and well researched - all that one would expect from a top journalist of long experience. But I have mixed feelings: you dig up the history, which is recorded, and you marshall it and dish it out ably and well; but you do not light it up with any new angle of vision or any new perspective that would startle the reader and make him or her feel and think and see old events in a fresh new light. Perhaps the judgement is too harsh. But shouldn't we judge the best in our profession by such standards? I leave this one to the final selectors.

Incidentally, the series of columns by C. Roy Reynolds which are found on the editorial page of the copies of the TWIN CITY SUN which were submitted make delightfully irreverent, daring and provocative reading. They are not entered but I like them.

21/10/'89

Dear Peter,

I trust that all is well, or at least nearly so. By the time you receive this package I hope that I will have had a chance to speak to you.

You will have noted that this package contains entries to this year's Journalism Awards programme. Accordingly, please note the following enclosures :

1. Carl Wint : Opinion News/Commentary -Series off Political News, Dec. '8888-Feb.'89.
2. Joan Barnett : 6 articles - Opinion & Investigative
3. Cherlton Dacosta: Investigative Journalism - 3 articles
4. Twin City Sun : Investigative/Opinion Journalism.

Although I have not enclosed any of Arnold Bertram's columns from the Record, I am asking you to give your comments on his work over the past year based on your own reading. We have been having some problems getting any cooperation from the editorial management at the Record, hence I have not managed to date to make selection of his best work for the year..

If at all possible may I have your comments by next Wednesday? (Nov. 4) I recall your criticisms last year about our short notice and would not want to be so guilty this time around.

We have some very heavy commitments recently in view of the proposed international conference of journalists and you should get a special newsletter(s) this week which will provide more detailed information on all the activities on the conference and Journalism week in general.

Franklin and myself should be going to Barbados and Trinidad this week to help step up the mobilizing for the conference. I will speak to you further on my return.

Until such time, many thanks again for all your ongoing support.


Claire.

P.S. : Horace Levy resigned recently as a trustee. Not for any vexed reason I think.

November 20, 1988

Miss Claire Forrester
Secretary, PAJ.

PAJ Annual Awards

Claire,

A note of concern to begin with. This is the first time that I have had to go through eleven pieces by the same journalist (Beth Aub), ten pieces by another (Clinton Chisholm), and nine by another (Eron Henry) in the single category of 'Opinion Journalism'. I would have thought that these journalists and/or their media houses would have selected what they considered their best work for the year for submission. The exception is, of course, where a person's whole body of work is being considered for some special award or in the category of 'Public Service.' I do not think it is a good trend in the 'one shot' categories. For one thing it shows an absence of any sense of selection which is especially bad in those of us out to shape public opinion; for another it suggests a casual sloppiness which by definition devalues what the PAJ is trying to do with these awards: the raising and maintaining the best standards in journalism. What is to prevent someone, next time around, just to clip together, say, fifty-two or sixty or more pieces broadcast or published during the course of the years and leave it to the PAJ to sort out. I think it is a bad trend. I think we have a right to expect our members to select the three or four pieces they and/or their media houses consider their best work for the year and submit only these; the PAJ may of course wish to consider something not included. But I think the indiscriminate mass submissions should be discouraged - otherwise the PAJ had better hire full-time staff to sort the chaff from the wheat.

Now for the assessment:

- 1) The 3-Part TWIN CITY SUN editorial on Crime & Violence struck me as the best piece of community editorial guidance on a key problem in the society.
- 2) Carl Wint's 5-part piece on the Jamaican Environment was first-rate, professional, and deserves recognition for the importance of the subject and its in-depth handling. It deserves a place in either of the categories for which it was entered.
- 3) I would dearly like to see Belford Henry return to the subject "Are We Really Free?" but in greater depth and with more research and thought. There is a history of shaping attitudes, including restrictions on trading by blacks, not mentioned. And why is it that Jamaicans do so much better elsewhere than at home. This is a key subject which should be much more deeply handled.
- 4) Please pay tribute to how the entire media performed



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OPINION JOURNALISM

1. Clinton Chisolm 18
2. Beth Aub 3
3. V. Lloyd Simpson 9
4. Gus Henry
5. RECORD 3
6. Twin City Sun
7. Glen Bower
8. Carl Wint / Public Service 3 (15 total)
9. Dawn Ritch
10. Ballard Henry 1



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Monday, 13/11

Peter,
Please excuse handwriting. I had hoped to see you. Also my telephone is out of service, but I will call you by tomorrow.
As contents indicate, it's ^{again} that time of year. Enclosed are entries for Commentary. Not included are submissions by Dawn Ritch which I have categorized as Satirical Writing and 'INSIGHT' which I've categorized as Public Service. These you may wish to comment on.
If possible may I get your assessment by Friday?
Please bear in mind also that you are free to include any other presentations not included which you feel should be considered.
Again, many thanks for your continued help.

Clare

November 3, 1987

Claire,

Except for the 'Nightshift On the Free Zone' story, the batch you sent me this year was not impressive. I hope you had other and better entries. Anyway, my comments follow:

- 1) Poor Boy.... So a young man makes a pile of money running a nightclub in London: what's so new or special about that? What does he do with his new riches? Enhance the community from which he sprang? Something like that would give it a special human interest.
- 2) Early Childhood Education... The community & the church are still at the centre of basic education for our toddlers and I, for one, resent the rather dismissive tones which suggests that thanks to foreign charity we are only now starting the real job. There's good material not well handled.
- 3) Crisis of Science Teachers... Urgent & disturbing problem well handled. Worthy of special mention
- 4) Charles Angel Dying of AIDS... I am not sure this is the best way of creating a climate of sympathetic understanding for either homosexuality or AIDS.
- 5) Common Entrance Cheating... A good news story; but is this all there was on this scandal? I recollect other, more in-depth stories.
- 6) Night Shift On the Free Zone... The best and socially most important story in the batch, and for me the only one worthy of an award in its chosen category.



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Peter,
I'm leaving 6 Gleaner articles for
you to assess and determine whether
any of them merits an award or
certificate of merit.

Human Interest

"Poor Boy ---"

Outstanding Public Service

"Early Childhood Education"

News

"Crisis of Science Teacher"

"Common Entrance Cheating"

Features / Human Interest

"Charles Angel Dying from AIDS"

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Total

1 ✓

1

2

1

+

1

6

Will collect tomorrow, also I will
telephone later to ascertain whether you
collected envelope

Claire

Regret the rush.



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PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

~~46~~ SURBITON ROAD, KINGSTON 10, JAMAICA W.I. TEL: 92-98436

c/o Professional Centre of Jamaica

2½ Ruthven Road, Kingston 10

May 25, 1987

Dear Trustee,

As promised, we wish to advise you of developments in *the* Association which pre-empted an earlier invitztion to you from the Executive to meet with us.

Firstly, please be advised that the following members were elected at a Special General meeting in January:

David Ebanks	President
Granville Newell	1st Vice President
Vincent Tulloch	2nd Vice President
Carmen Tipling	Treasurer
Patrick Harley	Chairman, Education Committee

As you have been advised previously, the election of these officers followed on the resignation of former president, Gladstone Wilson who left *for* Canada to take up a study grant at the University of Windsor, and also of the former treasurer Karl Angels and of Hugh Martin for personal reasons.

We further wish to advise you that our headquarters is now housed at the Professional Centre of Jamaica at the above address. The Press Club, however, has been temporarily closed and a realistic programme of restoration is being developed by the Executive which should, hopefully, be ready by June.

The closure of the Press Club and relocation of our headquarters were authorized by the January meeting. This was based on a report made at the meeting of a notice from our then land-agents to increase the rental as of March 1 by some 400%. Additionally, as was reported at the last Annual General Meeting and restated at the January meeting, "...the revenue available to the Association and Club are not matching the rate at which expenses are growing...The Press Club too has to be looked at since it is used by no more than ten to twenty per cent of the membership."

You should note that most of our furniture have been stored in space provided by a warehouse made possible through the efforts of the new treasurer. In addition,



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(2)

efforts of the new treasurer. In addition all our paintings have been stored at the National Gallery. In short, an inventory of all items of furniture, was taken before our removal.

Also as was discussed with you at an individual level, the meeting which we had scheduled with you in February, was to outline our current perilous financial situation which necessitated a loan from our Trust funds held by the National Commercial Bank.

In addition to several other outstanding prior commitments, we were left facing a debt of approximately \$15,000 to Oceana arising out of the last media seminar. In order to preserve

the good name of the Association, we had no option but to secure funds from that account. Fortunately, we were able to get the support of those of you with whom we communicated this position and the Oceana debt is now settled.

We, however, are optimistic of recovering most or all of this amount before the end of this administrative year, through the generosity of some of the sponsors of the media seminar. Indeed we have already secured some of this amount and there are indications that we should be hearing from another sponsor soon.

~~Finally, we wish to also advise you that on a recommendation from our auditors,~~

Finally, we wish to advise you that at the last Annual General Meeting, members, acting on the recommendation from our auditors, decided to recommend to you that the previous outstanding loan from the Trustees' Account, accumulated over several years, be written off as a grant in view of the unlikelihood of it being repaid.

In closing we wish to assure you that the Executive is actively devising new and creative strategies to provide what we hope to be an increased level of funding and hopefully reopen a more sustainable Press Club.

Sincerely

Beverly Hamilton
Beverly Hamilton (Asst. Sec.)

October 27, 1986

Miss Claire Forrester,
Secretary, P.A.J.

National Journalism Awards

Dear Claire,

Herewith my assessment, rather more hurriedly made than I would have preferred (to be given only a couple of days is really not enough time):

1. INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

I think David Geddes' story on the Jamaican Government's over-pricing to local farmers of fertiliser received free from Canada and to be sold to those farmers at 75% of world market prices, but which the government sold at full market price, was a classic piece of journalistic police work which bore results. After hemming and hawing and denying any wrongdoing, the government was forced to acknowledge the facts and reduce the price to 80.3%. I think it deserves the top prize in this category.

2. OPINION JOURNALISM

a. Basil Buck's Financial analyses are a refreshing departure from all the 'bottom-line wallahs' who write on financial matters in the Gleaner. He relates financial affairs to down-to-earth bread and marge issues, to education, to housing, to human hope. In the process he takes some of the, I think, deliberate, mystification out of money matters. And this, as well as content and style, deserves to be recognised.

b. I also hope you will find some way of rewarding Glen McFarlane's socially very important Portmore Pipeline. It is excellent community journalism.

Best regards

Peter Abrahams

7/11/85

Miss Claire Forrester,
PAJ Secretary

Annual Journalism Awards, 1985

Dear Claire,

1) Investigative Journalism:

The Marc Rich Connection is, in my judgement, the most important series in this category for this year - provided the excerpts from the interview with the Minister of Mining, Mr. Hugh Hart, on September 29, is seen as part and parcel of the series. Indeed, without that interview the series is not really complete: with it the series becomes an important in-depth exploration of a key economic sector and some questionable operations in it.

2) Culture:

Salute to Garvey, in this category, brings into focus a side of this National Hero's personality, interests and activities not widely known. I personally did not, for instance, know of the extent of Garvey's involvement, at a personal level, in Jamaica's grassroots cultural movement. I recommend it.

Warm Regards

4-11-85

Peter,

I'm taking the liberty to enclose the following entries for journalism awards for your assessment.

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

1. The Locaine Connection
(2 parts)

Cloyd Williams

2. More Rich Connection

Margaret Morris

CULTURE

1. St. Catherine's Musical Heritage : Basil Walter
2. Salute to Garvey : Barry Hamilton

I would be very grateful if you would return these with your assessment ~~to~~ before Friday.
As always thanks for your cooperation.

Clair

Peter,

For those who are interested lunch
at the Conference Centre Cafeteria 15 \$8 minus
drinks.

Seating

Secretary

~~Terry~~
Have wood

CHAIRMAN

Senator
~~[redacted]~~
Grange

President



**PRESS ASSOCIATION
OF
JAMAICA
SEMINAR**

"The State of the Jamaican Mass Media"

GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE CENTRE

Duke Street, Kingston

November 30, 1984



Answer to Mr. A. C.
School ~~of~~ ^{primary}
Tomorrow 6 p.m.
Want Mr. Lee M.

November 30, 1984

PROGRAMME

8:30	—	9:30 a.m.	:	REGISTRATION
9:30	—	9:35 a.m.	:	Chairman's opening remarks — Mr. Peter Abrahams
9:35	—	10:00 a.m.	:	Official opening — Hon. Senator, Babsy Grange
10:00	—	10:15 a.m.	:	COFFEE BREAK
10:15	—	11:30 a.m.	:	<i>"Preliminary Report on the Manpower Resources and needs of the Jamaican Mass Media"</i> Presenter: Mr. Wenty Bowen
11:30	—	12:30 a.m.	:	<i>"The Increasing Role of the Opinion Poll as a tool of the media"</i> Presenter: Dr. Carl Stone
12:30	—	1:30 p.m.	:	LUNCH
1:30	—	2:30 p.m.	:	<i>"Professionalism Continuity and Development the Challenge of the '80s"</i>
2:30	—	2:45 p.m.	:	COFFEE BREAK
2:45	—	4:30 p.m.	:	<i>"The Impact of Government Policy on the Media"</i> Panel: Representatives — JBC — RJR — Gov't. Media
4:30	—		:	Vote of Thanks: Monica Campbell, Chairperson, Education Committee



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November 13, 1984

Mr. Peter Abraham
c/o Radio Jamaica Limited
32 Lyndhurst Road
Kingston 5

Dear Peter:

Following our telephone conversation, I put in writing the details of the PAJ Seminar you will be chairing.

The Seminar will take place on November 30th at the Government Conference Centre in Kingston.

The theme last year was "Professionalism and Professional Standards." This year we focus on "The State of the Jamaican Mass Media."

There will be four sessions consisting of the following:-

1. Report on the findings of an empirical study of the manpower resources and needs of the Jamaican media. - CARIMAC Lecturer, Mr. Wenty Bowen.
2. Paper: "The increasing role of the opinion poll as a tool of the media" - Lecturer, Columnist & Pollster, Dr. Carl Stone.
3. Paper: "Professionalism, continuity and development - the challenge of the 80s" - CARIMAC Director, Dr. Aggrey Brown.
4. Panel discussion: "The impact of Government policy on the media" - Panalists - Management Representatives; Gleaner, Radio Jamaica, JBC and JIS.

The seminar will be opened by Minister of State with responsibility for information, Ms. Babsy Grange, who will speak on Government's policy towards the media and its development.

Registration gets underway from 8:30 a.m. There will be a registration fee of \$10.00. The proceeds will go towards the Press Association's Building Fund.

See you there.

Monica Campbell.

Monica Campbell

CHAIRPERSON

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

UWI Libraries



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PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

10 SURBITON ROAD, KINGSTON 10, JAMAICA W.I. TEL: 92-98430

November 8, 1984.

TO: Trustees, PAJ

From: Treasurer, PAJ

FIXED DEPOSIT

As a result of negotiations with NCB Mortgage & Trust Limited, the Press Association of Jamaica was successful in securing an increase in the interest rate on fixed deposit.

Effective October 3, 1984 to April 2, 1985, the \$55,000 on deposit will now yield 16% p.a. as compared to the previous rate of 14.5%.

This means that the new rate will earn \$4,400 for the next six months instead of \$3,987.50 which is the accrued amount on 14.5%.

Gladstone Wilson

Mrs. Barbara Gloudon
Mr. Peter Abrahams
Mr. Horace Levy
Dr. Aggrey Brown
Miss Janet Mowatt
Mr. Calvin Bowen
President
Secretary

November 3, 1984

Dear Claire,

1. David Ebanks for the INVESTIGATIVE Award. His Monetary Monitor series is a first-rate professional job.
2. I suggest an honourable mention for Stan Reynolds for his Taste of Jamaica story which contributed to the removal of the then Director of Tourism.
3. I am not too impressed by the entries for the Human Interest category; they do not strike me as up to the standard of previous years and you might consider not making an award in this category for this year. If you feel you must give an award then I suppose it should be McKnight (by default). If, on the other hand, the Neville Toyloy story on the Rasta Riots were transferred to Human Interest I would strongly recommend that. I do not think it is any great shakes as the best news story. I think RJR, as the station, deserves that one for having so consistently covered all the news when others seemed afraid. That, I think, is worthy of the Theo Sealy Prize.

Peace & Love

PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA
10 Surbiton Rd.,
Kingston 10.
30-10-'84

Dear Member,

This year our Association again plans to celebrate 'Journalism Week' and this will run from November 25 to December 1. Highlights of the week's activities are as follows:

- * Sunday, Nov. 25 Ecumenical Service; Bethel Baptist, Half-Way-Tree, 10:00 a.m.
Speaker, Rev. Burchell Taylor.
- * Wednesday, Nov. 28 Luncheon for Life Members and Veteran journalists of 25 years and over; Wray & Nephew Ltd.
- * Friday, Nov. 30 Journalism seminar; Govt. Conference Centre, downtown Kingston;
Theme, "State of the Mass Media in Jamaica"
'Manpower resources and Needs of the Jamaican Mass Media' :
Wenty Bowen
'The increasing role of the opinion polls as a tool of the Media'
Prof. Carl Stone;
'Professionalism, continuity and the challenge of the '80's'
Dr. Aggrey Brown
Panel discussion: "Impact of Government policy on the media"
Invited participants : Lester Spaulding; Oliver Clarke, Gloria Lannaman, Govt. Representative;
Key note address; Senator Olivia Grange;
Seminar Chairman; Peter Abrahams.
- * Saturday, December 1 NATIONAL AWARDS DINNER; Govt. Conference Centre; Executive Dining Room; 7:30 p.m.
Speaker, Errol Barrow, Opposition Leader, Barbados.
Tickets ; Members \$40; non members \$50

Each member is as always, entitled to 2 tickets at members price. These are available at the PRESS CLUB from ~~December 5~~ and at media houses from the following persons :
RJR; Clifton Segree; JBC, Gladstone Wilson; JIS, Beverly Hamilton or Errol Harvey;
GLENER, Vincent Tulloch.

Please remember to CHECK THE PRESS CLUB for further information and support
JOURNALISM WEEK !

Fraternally,

Claire A. Forrester
Claire A. Forrester
Secretary

PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA
10 Surbiton Rd.,
Kingston 10
30-10-'84

Dear Colleague,

The Executive of our Association takes pleasure in inviting you to its second annual luncheon in your honour and that of other journalists who have practised in the field for 25 years and over.

You may recall that last year's luncheon was a part of our 40th anniversary activities. Following on the success of those activities, it was decided to repeat 'Journalism Week' this year.

The luncheon will again be held in the Hospitality Suite of Wray & Nephew Limited, on Wednesday November 28, starting at 12:30 p.m.

Journalism Week this year will run from November 25 to December 1. Other highlights of the week will be as follows:

1. November 25 Church service; Bethel Baptist, HWT; 10:00 a.m.
speaker, Rev. Burchell Taylor.
2. November 30 One-day seminar; "State of the Mass Media in Jamaica"
Govt. Conference Centre
3. December 1 Journalism Awards/Presentation Dinner; Govt. Conference
Centre.

We trust that you will find it possible to participate in all the activities, more particularly, however, we look forward to seeing you on November 25 at Wray & Nephew Ltd.

Sincerely,
Claire Forrester
Claire A. Forrester
Secretary

RSVP
Clifton Segree
Claire Forrester
Gladstone Wilson

RJR News
NRCD, 35166, 35070, 35155
67889; JBC



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17 - 9 - '84

Mr. Peter Abrahams

RJR

Lyndhurst Rd.,
Kingston 5.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

Please forgive me for not writing to you much earlier as I had indicated that I would.

I am however, very pleased to inform you that our AGM of July 29, appointed you to serve once again as a Trustee of the Association in accordance with our Constitution. Six Trustees in all were appointed to serve, they are; Mrs. Barbara Gloudon, Miss Janet Mowatt, Dr. Aggrey Brown, Mr. Calvin Bowen, Mr. Horace Levy and yourself.

We congratulate you on your re-appointment and once again look forward to working with you in this capacity.

On a less pleasant note, the Press Club was burglarized recently and our coloured television set, amplifier and speakers, and a portable electric fan were stolen. The matter is being investigated by the police.

Once again, we wish you all the best and please feel free to call on me for any information concerning the Association.

Sincerely,

Claire Forrester

Secretary



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PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

10 SURBITON ROAD, KINGSTON 10, JAMAICA W.I. TEL: 92-98430

August 29, 1984.

Mr. Peter Abrahams
Radio Jamaica
32 Lyndhurst Road
Kingston 5.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

The Executive of the Press Association of Jamaica has decided to mount photographs of our Life Members in the Association's Headquarters out of deep appreciation of your contribution to the journalistic profession. We have used many opportunities to publicly thank you for your unselfish devotion to duty as one of the shining pioneers of Jamaica's fourth estate. However, we need a permanent record to help inspire those who follow.

The Executive would appreciate if you could supply an 8" x 10" B/W photograph by September 21, 1984, which will be framed and mounted at the Association's expense.

Fraternally,


Gladstone Wilson
TREASURER

PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

10 Surbiton Road
Kingston 10.

STATEMENT FROM PAJ EXECUTIVE ON
THE STATE OF THE MEDIA MARCH 1984

PREAMBLE

The historic Annual General Meeting of the Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) on August 28, 1983 gave an overwhelming and decisive mandate to the organization for a systematic policy of professionalising the Association.

The aim, of course, was to lift the standard and status of the profession and the Association which represents practitioners in the media by giving professional issues clear preference and priority, reversing the non-productive trend which hitherto had steered the PAJ down a politically partisan path.

In keeping with this directive, the Executive carried out a mid-term review of the state of the Media, concentrating on the four main media houses - the JBC; RJR; Daily Gleaner and JIS - in order to determine the conditions under which members have to perform their professional duties.

Unfortunately, however, our findings reveal a number of extremely unsettling tendencies and developments which warrant the most urgent attention and decisive action, in order to stem further decay in the profession and prevent further weakening of the news and information output to the country.

OVERVIEW - ECONOMIC SITUATION

The dramatic deterioration in the overall economic situation has led to widespread fears among members for the security of their jobs. This is common to both the government-owned media and the private institutions. As members grapple to cope with the steep rise in the cost of living, combined with a severe loss of purchasing power and the absence of a cushion for the blows, it is virtually a losing battle to maintain standards and improve output.

In alarming proportions, seasoned and experienced journalists are taking flight from the media houses in search of security and better prospects in allied professions such as public relations and advertising. This tendency deprives the country of the best practitioners in the information-gathering and dissemination business, and thus raises questions as to the quality of information being passed on to the public.

Many of our members are increasingly contemplating migration as the way out, and among those who remain, many are seeking employment in areas which promise better security and less harassment. As a result, the media house with the longest history of stability is deluged from time to time with applications to fill vacancies which are too few or non-existent.

The unavailability of funds cuts against capital development of media organizations, making it difficult to upgrade equipment or acquire the most modern technology, particularly because of a lack of foreign exchange. The Jamaica Information has been particularly affected, and development of the agency virtually came to a standstill.

SOCIAL SITUATION

While we are happy to note that media houses, in the main, have heeded our call on International Journalists' Day last September not to cut staff because of the economic situation, unfortunately, the social situation did not improve in some cases.

Complaints in this respect point mainly to the Daily Gleaner and the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation where a strong partisan political bias bears down heavily against the professional content of output and stifles the creative talents of professionals by discouraging a balanced approach to information gathering.

We take this opportunity to warn media administrators against the fettering of staff in their professional duties on the basis of partisan political considerations. A country moves only as fast as its citizens understand developments and issues around them, and it is extreme shortsightedness to discriminate against professionals because of differing political beliefs. The nation has a right to know at all times all the available facts.

SECTORAL SITUATION

JIS

The situation at the Jamaica Information Service is characterised, at best, by uncertainty, and at worst, outright fear for the future well-being of staff and the agency itself. After months in limbo, during which time the institution bore the hallmarks of neglect, Prime Minister Edward Seaga, who holds portfolio responsibility for the JIS, met the staff on Friday, March 12, 1984 and outlined plans for its re-organization.

1. A three-man Task Force headed by the Prime Minister's Press Secretary, Mrs. Winnie Hunter, and including Mr. Hu Gentles, Information Director at the Jamaica Bauxite Institute (JBI) and Mr. Ken Chaplin, Director of Information at the JIS, has been established as of March 12.

2. The Task Force will look at the agency over two months and come up with recommendations on a new structure for the JIS. It will also devise, in collaboration with the Jamaica Tourist Board's Public Relations Agents - Ruder and Finn - a training programme for staff.
3. Executive Director, Ken Jones, has been posted overseas to operate as Information Attache to the Jamaican Embassy in Washington. He will develop outreach programmes for the Jamaican community in North America, and would not be 'writing release', Mr. Seaga said. No explanation has been given regarding his removal, but for months, JIS staffers had concluded he had not been operating from a position of strength.
4. The JIS will be put on the Capital Budget and equipped to play 'the complex role' envisaged by the Prime Minister.
5. The Prime Minister could give no assurance about the security of jobs; neither could he give any indication as to the level of investment to be made in the Agency.

A cursory look at the individual departments of the JIS reveals the level of deterioration that had set in.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

This division has been described as the hub of the agency, but because of the prevailing uncertainty, coupled with low levels of remuneration, the staff has dwindled. There are only eight (8) Information and Public Relations Officers serving the entire government structure of sixteen (16) ministries.

Four (4) ministries, however, are served by in-house Information Officers. The division undertakes precious little public relations programmes, concentrating mainly on day-to-day reporting of government activities.

Most of the staff is junior, with the most senior having ten (10) years of service, followed by another with five (5) years. All other workers have been at the JIS for shorter periods.

TELEVISION

The unit is understaffed by about fifty percent currently having only one producer, two producer/directors, one script-writer instead of two, and four production assistants, instead of the required six.

FILM AND VIDEO

The Film Department has been plagued by resignations, the most telling being that of Mr. Franklyn St. Juste who now teaches at the Caribbean Institute of Mass Communication (CARIMAC), and Mr. Barry Hill, a cameraman of over ten years' experience at the agency.

The Video section is seriously under-equipped, notably lacking a second editing unit. This means that in the event of a breakdown, the show cannot go on. This is further compounded by the fact that the Educational Broadcasting Service (EBS) sometimes does its editing at the JIS because the EBS has no editing facility for the NTSC System. A JIS breakdown, therefore, would also affect programmes for our schools. Commercial agencies who would normally rent the unit, thus providing revenue, cannot now be allowed to do so.

OVERSEAS

This unit is understaffed by about fifty percent, poorly equipped and often loses its importance to the Press Unit at Jamaica House, particularly in the servicing of foreign journalists. With the announced closing of the Jamaica House Press Unit, this division is expected to receive active attention.

JAMPRESS which normally operates under this division, is to be re-activated, but there is little information as to its scope and other precise details about its operations.

The restructuring ordered by the Prime Minister is likely to provide the answers about the future of the JIS, and the PAJ is watching with close interest the progress of the Task Force.

JBC

The non-appointment of a Board of Directors to run the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation has increased concerns among the staff as to the stability of the Corporation. The absence of a Board means that no properly constituted policy-making body is in place, raising questions about the JBC's legitimacy. A further implication is that there is no suitable system of checks and balances to ensure insulation of staff from possible political interference, and accountability for actions of the station.

A number of recent developments at the JBC give cause of concern. These include the vesting of responsibility for commentary in one individual; discontinuation of the 'Portfolio' programme; by-passing of veteran media workers/journalists in favour of inexperienced practitioners; the summary dismissal of professional psychiatrist, Dr. Fred Hickling; and the apparent shunning of investigative journalism.

About a year ago, the services of the team of commentators at the JBC were discontinued and responsibility vested in one person, who has on numerous occasions in the past, indicated his political bias. This position clearly does not enhance the chances of ensuring a plurality of views.

The 'Portfolio' programme which tended to put leading personalities on the spot through questioning by various journalists, has noticeably been abandoned, without any clear statement as to its current status.

In this respect, the PAJ Executive wishes to have the matter clarified, and to know whether there is any justification for the feeling that there may be a connection between the resignation of the producer and the programme's cessation.

There are worrying charges that some staffers with long years of experience are being by-passed for inexperienced staffers, leading to concerns about victimisation and increasing job security. It is important that the management of the Corporation move swiftly to deal with this problem.

On January 26, 1984, Radio Psychiatrist, Fred Hickling, was handed a letter of dismissal while he was on the air. No reason was given for the discontinuation of his services which had proved to be most valuable. He was the longest serving expert on the JBC and had enhanced the image of the Corporation over the years.

The PAJ Executive wrote to the management deploring the dismissal and seeking a meeting to discuss the matter. This meeting was held on February 22, 1984. The JBC management claimed the letter followed earlier discussions with Dr. Hickling about the transfer of the programme to a night-time slot catering for audiences with more adult tastes. However, Dr. Hickling did not feel that this warranted a summary dismissal.

Arising out of our discussions, the JBC has agreed to meet with Dr. Hickling to discuss a proposal for settling the matter. We are following the developments closely, with a view to ensuring that justice is done.

Of major concern to the PAJ is the noticeable lack of investigative journalism as practised at the JBC. In order to encourage journalists into this vital area of news-gathering activities, the Association has elevated it in the Annual National Journalism Awards, providing very lucrative awards.

One is constrained to ask of the JBC whether there is a policy not to carry out investigative work or not to provide support and encouragement to staffers in this area.

For a brief period last year, the major 7.30 p.m. newscast on television had improved markedly with a wider variety of news and attractive presentation. However, this standard has fallen off again and we have received complaints that the news is often too one-sided or weighted on the side of the government.

The local content of programming continues to be of concern as not enough attention is paid to this area. The Executive is not happy to receive complaints that while the JBC is able to broadcast live, an American Football game between the Los Angeles Raiders and the Washington Redskins on January 22, it was unable to transmit anything on the popular regional Shell Shield match between Jamaica and Guyana which was being played here.

We would wish to encourage the JBC to provide the public with a more balanced and broader perspective on world events as presented on the International News Highlights which clearly carry on the American view on international issues.

The aim of the Executive is to make our criticisms constructive and we regret that our attempts to improve the lines of communication with the management of the Corporation have not met with the desired success.

DAILY GLEANER

With the closure of the Daily News, the Daily Gleaner has assumed greater importance, being the only morning daily. Consequently, the paper's responsibility to the country has also increased.

However, there are frequent complaints that the paper is too politically biased in favour of the government and pro-government groups.

There is a high turnover among reporting staff at the Daily Gleaner. One of the main constraints that reporters face in carrying out their job is the obvious political, editorial bias. The identi-

fication of people by their political affiliation or preferences impinge on the ability of the reporter to perform as a professional. Some reporters do not feel free to treat stories from political parties in an unbiased and objective manner, there being a tendency to pay more attention to the Jamaica Labour Party.

Staff often complain that scholarships and opportunities to further their education are not granted on merit or length-of-service, but rather on the basis of personal favours. Over the last five years, requests from several persons for study leave have been repeatedly turned down, while one set of workers are accorded opportunities to improve their education from time to time.

Reporters lose many man-hours because of the length of time spent waiting on a computer terminal after returning from an assignment. They further complain of spending much time rewriting stories that have been "lost" in the computer.

Another problem reporters face is the unavailability of transportation to take them from assignments, especially at late hours in the night. They say they are often stranded on assignments.

Generally, staff in the Editorial Department would like to see less favouritism and more objectivity and impartiality in the treatment of workers. They have proposed that the system of promotion be reviewed to ensure fair treatment for all.

RJR

The situation at Radio Jamaica, according to staffers, is not the same as in the other media houses.

The ownership structure is such that the workers enjoy a significant voice in the running of the organization. The company has put in place a worker participation machinery. There are two worker directors on the board.

Nevertheless, there are occasions when a lack of communication will cause disagreements. However, it is important to note that there has not been any industrial action at the company for years. It is also a tribute to the company's system of management that it has settled negotiations with the NWU at the local level, for the most part. The last contract was signed on February 20, 1984.

Training is becoming a significant part of the company's programme for worker development, although some workers believe that not enough is being done in this direction.

One of the concerns of the organization is the government's stated intention to divest its interest in Radio Jamaica; the government has two representatives on the 12-member board, but has done nothing so far to indicate that it wants to divest its shares in the company. The uncertainty needs to be cleared up urgently.

RJR's development programme is being retarded by the country's chronic shortage of foreign exchange. Broadcasting equipment is very expensive; the company has complained constantly to government about the unfair treatment it receives in relation to its competitor, JBC Radio, which is allowed certain duty-free concessions, mainly for broadcasting equipment. The matter is now being discussed and the PAJ urges a speedy resolution.

The priority concern among media workers, and those at RJR are no different in this context, is the pressure created by the economic hardship the country is experiencing.

The problem for workers at Radio Jamaica is not that they fear losing their jobs, but rather that their salaries cannot keep pace with inflation and there has consequently been a fall in their standard of living. It is well known fact that performance declines as the stress of living increases.

It is also becoming more urgent that training of journalists be given more priority in the development of media organizations. Too often, journalists are called upon to report like experts on issues about which they know little. Mention must be made too, of the frequent mispronunciation of words and poor reading on the electronic media. The aim here must be to ensure that presenters are adequately trained for the job they perform.

The prevailing situation, understandably, has dampened the enthusiasm of journalists to perform beyond the mile, but the PAJ Executive warns members against adopting an attitude of resignation. This will only serve to worsen the situation and deprive the public of qualities of initiative and resourcefulness so badly needed.

.....
Clifton Segree
PRESIDENT

PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

10 Surbiton Rd.,

Kingston 10

13-2-'84.

Ms. Elaine Wallace

c/o Ministry of Youth & Sports

Kingston Mall.

Dear Ms. Wallace,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence to the Executive dated January 26. The Executive has asked that I convey to you its thanks for your continued concern in the business of the Association as expressed in your impassioned letter.

Regarding your speculation about the motive behind my house-cleaning exercise, however, I wish to advise you that that exercise involved the sorting out of relevant documents from disposable material and trash, which as you know, had been accumulated over the years. Additionally, perhaps you will recall that I had advised you that all the material concerned had been examined by me. It is to be regretted that you chose to misinterpret that bit of information.

Your charge that the material disposed of was all taken from the bench/cupboards, is also incorrect and misdirected.

I state in closing that one hopes that the impression of hostility gathered from the tone of your letter is an incorrect one and that your motive in writing emerged from a genuine concern in advancing the work of the Association.

Yours sincerely,

Claire A. Forrester

Claire A. Forrester

Secretary

cc. Trustees

cc. Mr. T.E. Sealy

Press Association of Jamaica
10 Surbiton Road
Kingston 10
27th January, 1984

Dear Member:

Please be advised that a special general meeting of our association is scheduled to be held on Sunday, February 19 at the Mutual Life Building, mezzanine floor, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Members will recall that the decision to hold the meeting arose out of a resolution passed at the last A.G.M. Accordingly, the meeting is being called to consider the question of whether there is need to change the categories of membership as set out in the constitution.

Please make every effort to be on time.

Yours sincerely,

Claire A. Forrester

Claire A. Forrester
Secretary



PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

10 Surbiton Rd., Kingston 10

PRESIDENT

Clifton Segree

SECRETARY

Claire A. Forrester

25-1-'84.

Mr. Peter Abrahams

c/o R.J.R.

Lyndhurst Rd.,

Kingston 5.

Dear Mr. Ab

Enclosed please find a copy of the text of the citation read in your honour at our Awards Dinner in December.

Again, please accept our congratulations for an award well deserved.

Yours sincerely,

Claire

Claire A. Forrester

Secretary

THE PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA (PAJ)

40TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL JOURNALISM AWARD

TO

PETER ABRAHAMS

DECEMBER, 1983

THE PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA THINKS THAT 40 YEARS IS AN APPROPRIATE JUNCTURE IN OUR HISTORY TO REFLECT AND PAY TRIBUTE TO PERSONS WHO HAVE BROUGHT TO THE PROFESSION OF JOURNALISM SOMETHING MORE THAN THE COMPETENCE EXPECTED OF ANY PROFESSIONAL. WE WERE CAREFUL TO NOTE NOT ONLY THE TECHNICAL ABILITY AND EXPERIENCE, BUT THOSE OUTSTANDING AMONG US WHO DISPLAYED INNOVATION, CRAFTSMANSHIP, AND WHO HAVE MADE A LONG LASTING CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF JOURNALISM IN JAMAICA. THESE INDIVIDUALS MUST BE VERITABLE INSTITUTIONS THEMSELVES BECAUSE OF THE POSITIVE CHANGES THEY HAVE BROUGHT TO THE PROFESSION BY BEING ARCHITECTS OF INSTITUTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORKS IN POST-COLONIAL JAMAICA.

ALTHOUGH SOME JOURNALISTS HAVE RECEIVED NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONHOOD, WE FEEL IT IS VITAL AND IMPORTANT FOR THE PROFESSION TO HONOUR THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED TO SHAPE AND FASHION JOURNALISM AS A NOBEL INSTITUTION IN SOCIETY.

THE PRESS ASSOCIATION IS PLEASED TO PRESENT THE PAJ 40TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL AWARDS TO THE FOLLOWING JOURNALISTS:

OUR FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE PAJ 40TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL JOURNALISM AWARD EXPERIENCED THE TRAUMA OF RACIAL PREJUDICE AND ALIENATION AND HAS ALWAYS KEPT TRUE TO THE PRACTICE THAT APARTHEID NOT ONLY INJURES THOSE AGAINST WHOM IT IS USED BUT WARPS AND PERVERTS THE VERY PEOPLE WHO PREACH, PRACTISE AND PROTECT IT. HIS GUIDING PRINCIPLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMAN POTENTIAL IS ROOTED, THEN, NOT ONLY IN THE SCARS OF THOSE BRUTAL YEARS BUT ALSO IN HIS CREATIVITY HONED IN PART ON THE EXPERIENCES OF THE JAMAICAN PEOPLE.

HIS WORK HAS BEEN A SELF-EVIDENT EXAMPLE OF SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE, PROFESSIONAL PROBITY AND THAT UNFALTERING COMMITMENT TO DECENCY, HUMAN DIGNITY AND FREEDOM WHICH HAVE HELPED TO GIVE STATUS AND RESPECT TO THE PROFESSION OF JOURNALISM IN JAMAICA.

THE CONTENT OF HIS DAILY BROADCASTS ON RADIO JAMAICA OVER A LONG PERIOD RANGES FROM THE CONCERNS OF THE SIMPLE MAN IN THE SMALLEST VILLAGE IN JAMAICA TO THE GREAT ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL MOMENT AFFECTING NATIONS AND PEOPLES. HE ESCHEWS THE TEMPTATION TO BROADCAST TO A WIDE UNKNOWN AUDIENCE IN A HIGHLY TECHNICAL AND COMPLEX MANNER, BUT INSTEAD SEEKS TO COMMUNICATE IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY BY UTILISING SIMPLE AND UNCOMPLICATED LANGUAGE. THE DIRECTNESS OF HIS DELIVERY, THE BREATH OF VISION AND THE SINCERITY OF HIS AIM TO HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE HUMAN CONDITION, THEIR PLACE IN IT AND THEIR POTENTIAL FOR COPING HAVE ENDOWED THE PROFESSION WITH

THE MORAL AUTHORITY IT UNDOUBTEDLY HAS IN SUPPORT OF ITS CLAIMS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BUILDING OF JAMAICA AND SHAPING IT INTO A CIVILISED AND RESOURCEFUL SOCIETY. THE JOURNALIST HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF CREATING FREE SOCIETIES AND INFLUENCING THE GROWTH AND DIRECTION OF NATION-STATES. INDEED, THE POWER OF THE JOURNALIST OVER THE MOVEMENT OF INFORMATION PRESENTS THAT SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THOSE WHO WRITE AND BROADCAST, EDIT AND PRINT. IT ALSO AFFORDS THE PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST THE OPPORTUNITY TO POSITIVELY ENCOURAGE ATTITUDES AND MORES THAT ARE UPLIFTING, SOUND AND LASTING. IT IS IN THIS SENSE THAT THIS RECIPIENT HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY IN THE PRACTICE OF THE PROFESSION.

HIS CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN A STERLING ONE STANDING OUT AS THE FINEST EXAMPLE OF RADIO COMMENTARY WHICH COMPLEMENTS HIS OWN STILL LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH THE PRINT MEDIA WHEN HE ADDRESSED FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES CONCERNED WITH THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND THE QUEST FOR VIABILITY THROUGH CARIBBEAN REGIONAL INTEGRATION. MANY OF THESE EDITORIALS AND ARTICLES WILL ENTER THE LITERATURE OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS IN THE HISTORY OF THE CARIBBEAN REGION.

THE PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA WISHES TO HONOUR AND BESTOW THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL JOURNALISM AWARD TO PETER ABRAHAMS.

PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

22a Old Hope Road,

Kin ston 5

June 4, 1979

Dear

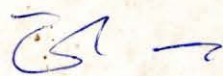
Peter,

You are invited to a meeting of the Executive to be held at the Press Club on Wednesday, June 6 beginning at 7.30pm.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:-

1. Meeting called to order
2. Minutes of the meeting of May 24
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Annual General Meeting
5. Correspondence and applications for membership
6. AOB
7. Adjournment

Sincerely,



Elaine Wallace
Secretary

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING OF MAY 24, 1972

Present at this meeting were Peter Abrahams, Desmond Allen, Elaine Wallace, Hopeton Dunn, Clifton Segee, Garfield Myers, Terry Smith and Ben Brodie.

Apologies were received from Bonnie Thwaites and Mike Jarrett.

The meeting was called to order by Peter Abrahams.

Meeting with Minister Bartram

1. This meeting was set for May 25 at 12.00pm. In view of the short notice it was suggested that the Executive meeting should set the parameters for the discussion with the Minister and a small group finalise the arguments in the morning before the meeting. The Executive however went on to discuss the matters which would be raised with the Minister. (see brief for meeting attached)
2. Motion left the meeting at this point. Ben arrived during the discussion.
3. Ben reported that the talk with the Lower 6th form at St. Andrew High School had been very interesting and had taken place as scheduled. He also pointed out that the minutes of the previous meeting was incorrect as it was decided that he should give this talk and not the Secretary. The Minutes were amended accordingly.
4. Ben also met with Mr. Hugh Cholmondley of UNESCO to discuss the proposal from Mr. Griffiths of the Guyana Press Association as well as the proposed seminar for Caribbean journalists. Mr. Cholmondley reported that the PAJ's submission for assistance from UNESCO had not been received in Paris. He said that if the submission was again made in June of this year the PAJ would receive a response by October. It was also his view that organisations such as CANA, the Mass Comm. Institute, the Caribbean Broadcasters Union and the CPBA should be invited. Further, he suggested that the subjects for discussion should be broadened. It was his hope that out of the seminar would come a Caribbean organisation of journalist practitioners. He suggested that the PAJ seek assistance from Dr. Seargeant at Mass Comm and try to locate a copy of the final document from last year's UNESCO Communications seminar. He felt that a committee including the Mass Comm. Institute should be set up to plan the seminar. Hopeton reminded the meeting that in all the arrangements it should be clear that the PAJ would have the decisive say in the organisation and direction of the seminar. The seminar will be discussed at Ben's meeting with UPEC. Ben would ask if it was possible for them to extend the two week period which had been indicated as the time/they would send someone to assist us.

5. Ben is to respond to the letter from Griffiths and Elaine is to inform Mr. Roque of the progress on the seminar.

Media house meetings

6. The following schedule was agreed on for the plant meetings:-

JBC - July 9, 1.30pm; Daily News - July 10, 3.00pm; RJR - July 11, 5.00pm;

Daily Gleaner - July 11, 8.00pm. Non-media house members would be invited to a meeting at the Press Club on July 9 at 5.30pm.

Professional questions

7. Clifton reported that the U.S. State Department courses for journalists had been discontinued. It was his view that the reasons for this should be established by the PAJ as these courses were of benefit. He is to follow this up.

8. Clifton is also to keep the PAJ informed of developments around the arrest of two RJR staffers for fraud. He also reported that the WPJ issue with RJR had been settled.

9. The Secretary reported that Lester Spaulding of RJR had sent the PAJ a copy of RJR's response to the WPJ but that this was what had been requested from him. He had been asked for their findings on the coverage of the WPJ. The request is to be made again.

Fundraising

10. The sub-committee for this area had met and worked out a plan of events. The major event would be a dance possibly at Curphey Place on June 30. This would be the third in a series of events, the others being smaller. A grand independence fair is also being considered by the sub-committee. This would bring together a broad section of the membership and their families. Members would contribute items for the fair and there would be an entertainment package. A media marathon to start at the Press Club and ending at the fair was also being considered as part of this event.

11. The sub-committee is to meet before the next executive meeting and the fair would be discussed further. The fair would also be discussed at the plant meetings.

Press Club

12. The Club was fumigated and the carpet cleaned. This should cost in the region of \$250. The stereo set had been purchased from Stanley Motta for \$2,500. It includes a new receiver with 40watt amp., two 10 - 12" speakers and a tape deck. There is an offer of \$250 for the old stereo but Maurice Creary is to be checked before it is sold as it was a gift from Goodyear.

13. Lorraine Wint and Harris Dais have agreed to serve on the Bar and Entertainment

Committee. The new liquor store is still being investigated.

Annual Dinner

The Casa Monte Hotel has been confirmed as the venue for the annual dinner.

Discussions are still to take place on the cost for the event there.

15. Patrick Smikle, Raymond Sharp and Wenty Bowen have been confirmed as judges for the Seprod Awards. Mr. Keith Brown and Ms. Dorcas White are to be checked for the print section as the other persons will be unavailable. Archie Lindo and Adrian Robinson are still to be contacted for judging the electronic section.

16. Mr. John Harrison of Seprod had turned down the PAJ's proposal that the special 15th anniversary award be made for work in industrial relations. He suggested that it be given for 'political commentary'. The Executive felt that this area was too subjective and would be too controversial. It was agreed that the new proposal would be that the award be given for work in the area of Agriculture. If he did not agree to this the coverage of rural news would be suggested.

17. The 1978 National Press Award will be given to the Bustamante Hospital for Children.

18. Peter Abrahams left the meeting at this point.

New premises

19. Clifton reported that Sempier Real Estate found that most landowners wanted either to rent or sell but not to lease with an option to buy. The premises at Rutherford Road had been checked again but the agent still did not know if the owners were favourable to our terms. They too were interested in selling.

Hopeton had checked the empty Barclays Training Centre in Half Way Tree but NCB was not interested in renting with that building.

20. An advertisement is to be placed in the newspapers seeking a premises on our terms. Garfield is to place this ad.

Cuban seminar

21. The seminar is to receive a status report on the media situation in Jamaica, as well as what we know about the rest of the region. Ben and Clifton are to work on this. Basil Parker and Clifton will leave for the seminar on June 13 and return on the 27th. The Secretary is to make these reservations.

Speaking engagements

22. The St. John's Youth Club event was cancelled by the Club. They are to inform us of the new date. Transport arrangements for Terry to attend the Yallahs Secondary School Open Day on May 22 broke down so he was unable to attend. An apology is to be sent to the school.

23. Desmond reported that he would be on leave from the Gleaner from May 27. He is scheduled to leave for France on June 27. The French Embassy would be paying the fare both ways for the scholarship although it was usual for a one way ticket to be given. The PAJ is to thank them for this in a letter.

24. The PNFYO is to be informed that the PAJ would not become members of the Nicaragua solidarity committee but would be willing to assist with specific activities where this was possible.

25. Confirmation of the minutes was moved by Desmond and seconded by Ben.

New Business

26. The citation from Journalism Week for Bill Haughton is to be lettered, signed by the Executive and delivered to Mrs. Haughton. Terry is to deal with this.

Correspondence

27. The PAJ is to assess its outstanding dues to FELAP and make arrangements for payment.

The next meeting of the Executive was set for June 5.

The meeting was adjourned.

PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

22a Old Hope Road,
Kingston 5

May 21, 1979

Dear

Peter

You are invited to a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Press Association to be held on Thursday, May 24, beginning at 7.30pm at the Press Club.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:--

1. Meeting called to order
2. Minutes of meeting of May 9, 1979
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Reports from Committees
5. Correspondence
6. Any other business
7. Adjournment

Sincerely,

Elaine

Elaine Wallace
Secretary

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

REPORT TO END APRIL & WORKPLAN TO END JUNE

1. MEETINGS, MEMBERS & REPORTS

Meetings were held in September, October, January, February and April. Attendance fell sharply after the first two meetings and several meetings fell through for want of a quorum. M. Ruddock stopped coming after October and C. Campbell after January; S. McDonald, R. Fray and M. Jarrett came once, and D. Allen to later meetings. Only E. Thomas and H. Levy attended with regularity. Jarrett and Allen offered acceptable excuses for absences. In April as a result, D. Wallen and M. Newland were invited and agreed to join the Committee and at a PAJ general meeting, when the problem was aired, C. Wilmot and B. Meeks volunteered their services. The latter two attended the mid-April meeting. Prior to this no formal reports of Committee activities (apart from a budget and one list of rap session topics and speakers) have been made, partly again because of the poor attendance, particularly by the Secretary.

2. COURSES & SCHOLARSHIPS

In October 1978, through the usual interviews, candidates for Alcan and Jack Anderson Memorial Scholarships were selected, while Alcan agreed to increase the value of the scholarship from \$500 to \$3,000. The French Government, through its embassy here, agreed to give an annual scholarship, with the first nominee (Desmond Allen) leaving for France this summer. And PAJ jointly with Communi-
(of the CCC)
carib sponsored a candidate (Joanne Simpson) for a five-month course in Barbados which began in January, 1979.

Notice for the Alcan and Anderson Scholarship inviting applications will go out earlier this year, hopefully by mid-June when the Institu-

of Mass Communications expects to have compiled its list of students for the next academic year. Notices were posted in Media houses as to the availability of a postgraduate fellowship at Columbia University.

Regarding scholarships and exchanges, enquiries were made by letter and/or verbally from Sr Juan Alvarez of IOJ in Czechoslovakia, the Polish and Swedish embassies in Cuba, the local embassies or representatives of South Korea, Panama, Columbia, Venezuela, Hungary and the Ministry of Education. Sr Alvarez previously ^{/and} subsequently met with PAJ's executive and reportedly indicated what could be expected. Replies from the others have been either negative or not yet received.

Through API's George Lee the Thompson Foundation has indicated an interest in conducting a course in Jamaica ⁱⁿ the latter part of this year. Details are presently being looked into, with a view to taking up this proposal.

3. RAP SESSIONS & FILMS

A number of rap sessions, preceded in several instances by film ^{were held} on Tuesday nights at the Press Club - on Nicaragua (F Gonzalez Inverness (Sam Thompson), Haiti (Alix Fils-Aime), WPJ (Trevor Munroe, CTC (School of Drama reps), Taxation (E. Bell & H. Manhertz) Libel Laws (Roy Fairclough), State Trading Corporation (Danny Williams) Police & Information (Barry Cross), The Soviet Agreements (N. Girvan and Headley Brown).

Topics slated for May to July are the Media and National Development (A. Bertram), U.S. Foreign Policy with special reference to the Caribbean region (U.S. Ambassador) IAPA & Journalistic Ethics (O. Clarke), NPM, Popular Music - Values conveyed (?)

the journalist and commissions of Enquiry (Dorcas White) the Soviet Press (C Robinson). *Henceforth, rap sessions will usually be preceded by a film.*

Abortive attempts at rap sessions were also made on the boycott by journalists covening sports (last October-November), the rights of women and children (International Women's Day), the China-Vietnam border war (reps of the China-Jamaica Friendship Association failed to confirm), the alternative to the IMF (Robotham & Figueroa), a film on Iran, the copyright situation in the recording business, and a number of other topics.

4. Attempts to organize the library have not been particularly successful. There has been a quick turn-over in the ranks of those who have assumed this responsibility, the present physical set-up at the press club is not helpful, promises from foreign embassies and missions have mostly not been kept, and no expenditure has been made by PAJ for periodicals. This last fact stems partly from the feeble efforts of the Education Committee in regard to library, partly from the paucity of funds available.

In the Committee's opinion, little can be done about the library until the Association moves into new quarters.

Borges of IOJ was written to in February: he was asked to put us on their mailing list for Democratic Journalist and IOJ Bulletin, and a number of other publications were requested.

.....
Horace Levy
CHAIRMAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

3/5/79

Bar and Entertainment Committee Report May 8th, 1979

Since the Special General Meeting the Committee held one meeting at which the main item on the agenda was proposals to the Executive for re-constituting the Committee.

As it now stands the Committee consists of

Hopeton Dunn—Chairman

Desmond Allen— Acting Secretary

Paul Mallin—

Vivene Thompson

Margaret Newland

Claudine Boothe

Bill Haughton

Two other members of the Committee, Calvin Bowen and Veron Witter no longer function at the Committee level and are no longer patrons of the Club. There is irregularity in the attendance at meetings of a number of other members for varying reasons. Margaret Newland although attending the last two meetings, has pointed out her work situation which precludes full attention to committee work. Claudine Boothe is at Mass Comm and now has to be paying all her attention to academic work, and Bill Haughton though willing, is sometimes unable to make meetings. This reduces the Committee to a mere core, which cannot always satisfactorily carry the spread of work involved.

The Committee therefore proposes (1) Desmond Waller (2) Kate Davies (3) Mike Garrett to join the committee, along with any (3) other persons which the Executive can think of.

Activities

In keeping with the call of the General Meeting for more varied activities at the Club the Committee hosted an Easter Monday Games fete and ~~xxxxxxxx~~ along with Mike Jarrett hosted an evening of musical appreciation and games, with prizes and competitions. Both these events met with modest success.

The idea of Games Evening on a weekly basis (Fridays) has not yet been implemented, partly because of the absence of sufficient indoor games and also because of a subjective failing of the Committee. The item is to be considered at a Committee Meeting planned for ~~xxxxxx~~ Thursday Evening

With only two months left before AGM, the Committee intends to ^{plan} ~~xxxxxx~~ only two more fetes, one at the end of May and another at the beginning of July, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ but this is in addition to any other smaller projects like the games nights.

The Press Club

The Club has managed to maintain the patronage of the majority of the younger members of the media, from all media houses. However, a section of its clientele made up mainly of the older people either from the Gleaner or no media house have withdrawn their support. Despite the activities at the Club, this withdrawal has led to a reduction by at least a third of the weekly take, and thereby limited the Club's expenditure to the bare necessities like liquor, wages, telephone bill and to a lesser extent light bill, which still has a deficit. Unfortunately, the checks on the water meter is overloaded remains inconclusive and the person doing the tests has still not reported to me on the matter.

The Landlord, Mr Milton Weise, indicated that the water rates will now have to be taken over by us, but said he would discuss the matter further. He has not yet done so and attempts to get him have been futile. The Club itself is in need of painting and Weise has undertaken to do

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING OF MAY 9, 1979

1. Present at this meeting were:- Ben Brodie, Hopeton Dunn, Clifton Segree, Terry Smith, Fitzroy Nation, Desmond Allen, Elaine Wallace, Ronnie Thwaites and Mike Jarrett.
2. Apologies were received from Peter Abrahams who was ill.
3. The Minutes of the last meeting were amended to read (1) Ben Brodie was present and (2) Nation reported that the Gleaner dispute around the pension scheme... (Para. 11)

Matters arising from the Minutes

4. Ben reported that Bertram was willing to meet with the PAJ on Wednesday, May 16. He is to follow up on this appointment and inform the Executive accordingly.
5. In relation to the PAJ News, Nation reported that there had been no follow up on the proposal for advertisements from the media houses. There had been no meeting of the Committee due to difficulty in finding a time convenient to every one.
6. It was reported further that no collection had been done on the last issue. So as not to draw on new funds from the Treasurer, the Committee had decided not to publish the April issue but to put out an April/May issue shortly. This was the first lapse in the publication of the newsletter since the beginning of the year, three having already been put out.
7. Elaine noted that the Committee should not independently decide not to publish an issue as this should be discussed at the Executive first.
8. On the Committee itself, Nation said that the work revolved around a few people as others took on tasks but did not carry them through.
9. A meeting of the Publications Committee is to be held on Tuesday, May 14 at which the advertisements would be discussed. The question of personnel would also be dealt with at this meeting. The Executive felt that although most of media houses were in financial difficulty, they were placing advertisements in other media and would possibly be willing to take out some in the PAJ News.
10. The meeting of the auditor, Mr. Sealy, Ben and Hopeton had still not been held because of the unavailability of the auditor. Efforts are to be made by Hopeton to convene this meeting before the next Executive meeting.
11. An interview had been done with Harry Mayers of CANA by Joan Ross for the PAJ News. Ben also had a discussion with Mayers, who felt that the PAJ had been too harsh on CANA in the recent PAJ News editorial.
12. Someone on the Publications Committee is to be assigned to do an article on IAPA in the June issue of the News.
13. Hopeton reported that the plans for the dance had been set back because of the difficulty in finding a suitable venue. He further said that work on

the committee for fundraising had not been proceeding collectively, but on the basis of a liason between him and Mike Jarrett. Out of this had come 'Ecclecticism' the music event held at the Press Club on May 6.

14. The sub-committee was criticised for the delay on the fundraising. Hopeton felt that the target might have been too optimistic but agreed that more funds should have been raised. The meeting decided that the sub-committee should convene with the four members and plan for smaller events than the dance.

15. Nation is to further investigate funding for the reestablishment of an office.

16. Letters to the Sportswriters Association and to Mr. Paul Roberts of Radio Free Grenada had been sent off.

17. Hopeton moved for the confirmation of the minutes, and was seconded by Clifton.

Reports from Committees

18. The reports were tabled at the meeting and are to be circulated to members of the Executive for the next Executive meeting. Important points out of the Bar and Entertainment Report were discussed.

Publications

No report came from this committee. Nation explained that without a meeting the report had been set back. A comprehensive report is to be completed and given to the Secretary next week.

Bar and Entertainment

20. Ronnie arrived at this point in the meeting.

21. This Committee will now include Lorraine Wint, and Harris Dias is to be checked to sit on the committee.

22. The audit for the raffle is to be given to the Ministry of Justice so that the tax question on the raffle can be dealt with. The Paj is to apply to have the tax waived.

23. At present the Press Club is facing a situation where the funds are low, there is an outstanding light bill of \$700, and the Club needs to improve its facilities for recreation and relaxation.

24. Hopeton reported that there was no consistent accumulation of funds to the Club account at present. Outstanding bills therefore could not be eliminated but the income would allow for the bills to be held at a reasonable level. He also noted that immediate steps had to be taken to clean the carpet and fumigate the Club.

25. Because of the present low attraction of the Club, some members did not visit. Clifton pointed out that if the Club is to be maintained then it would have to be kept above the present standard.

26. Hopeton pointed out that there was a direct link between what is possible

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For the Club and the funds which flow into the Club. At present there was \$259 in the Club account and \$256 for the Association. He noted that these days, less members who come to the Club are able to pay their bills. At the same time if all their credit was removed then they would not be able to use the bar facility and the Club would suffer in the long run.

27. It was felt that the question of finance was becoming a major issue for the Association and has to be thoroughly assessed soon.

28. It was decided that the carpet in the Club should be cleaned immediately and the place is to be fumigated. A contract for regular fumigation is to be investigated. Executive members should make an effort to get members for the Club.

29. The stereo set for the Club should be bought as soon as possible and a report on this is to come to the next executive meeting.

30. The Club was now having problems with Zanzibar where Mr. Shim is now saying that he entered into an arrangement with Mr. Ken Chaplin and is suggesting that he would prefer not to deal with the present PAJ leadership. Hopeton is to investigate taking out an account with another liquor store.

31. Hopeton also reported that he had reports which led him to believe that definite efforts had been made by Sybil to undermine the Club and promote Page One when she was leaving our employment. e.g. discouraging membership to the Press Club. Wine cards were taken from the Club and the ashtrays seemed reduced.

32. Mike arrived at this point.

New premises

33. Ronnie had written to Paul Chevannes in connection with the property at Beechwood Ave. requesting a discussion on our interest in the property. Mr. Chevannes said this request was to be taken to the Board of Directors the following week. Ronnie will hear from him after that.

34. The property at Ruthven Road is to be followed up by Mike and Clifton is to contact Sempler Real Estate about identifying a property for the PAJ. A short list of properties is to come to the next Executive meeting.

35. Ronnie left the meeting at this point.

Allocation of tasks on the Executive

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| 36. International Relations | - | Nation |
| Speaking engagements | - | President and Vice Presidents |
| Professional questions (local and international) | - | Clifton |

Christine Bell and Garfield Myers are to be checked to work as Assistant Secretary.

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37. The annual general meeting is to be held on July 22.

Seprod Awards

38. The following persons are to be checked to be judges for the Awards. If they agree a short list of their names is to be submitted to Seprod.

Print: Raymond Sharpe, Hal Glave, Marlene Cuthbert and Mervyn Morris.

Electronic: Wenty Bowen, Partick Smikle, Archie Lindo, Adrian Robinson

Leroy Brown and Dorcas White were alternative choices for print and Lennie Littlewhite for electronic.

39. On the Special Award to mark the 15th anniversary, the PAJ would recommend to Seprod that this be given for outstanding work in the area of industrial relations. The closing date for entries will be June 27 and a release is to go out announcing this and the Special Award.

Annual dinner

40. The annual dinner will be held on Sept. 8 at the Casa Monte hotel. The availability of the hotel and costs should be checked by the Secretary. Clifton, Mike and Elaine are to form a committee to plan for the dinner. Proposals for the National Press Award should come to the next Executive meeting.

Media house meetings

41. One series of media house meetings is to be held before the PAJ year ends.

Correspondence

42. Hopeton is to speak on behalf of the Association at the St. Johns Youth Club. Elaine is to speak at St. Andrew High School.

43. Jennifer Ffrench and Carol Walker are to be checked to represent the PAJ on the City Restoration Committee. The reply to the Mayor's invitation to sit on the Committee should name our representative.

44. A letter thanking INSPORT for their invitation to the Physical Education Seminar should be written. The letter should include that the PAJ share the sentiments expressed in the theme of the seminar and regret that a representative to participate in the seminar could not be chosen in time.

45. Hopeton is to draft a letter to JBC's General Manager informing him that Horace Levy, commentator, had written to the PAJ, informing us that he had been dismissed without explanation, and seeking reasons for Levy's dismissal. The letter is to be copied to the Ministry and to the Board Chairman.

46. Ben is to reply to Mr. Griffiths of Guyana Press Association following a discussion with Hugh Cholmondley of UNESCO. Mr. Griffiths was inviting the PAJ to participate in a Caribbean Press Association for representation on the Non-Aligned Journalism body.

47. A complaint of harassment of Beve rley Newell by JLP MP Ossie Harding was

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received. Elaine is to write the JLP Chairman deploring the action and asking whether this was consistent with the JLP's view of freedom of the press. Ms. Newell is to be advised to report the matter to the police as she had been threatened.

49. Elaine is to write to the WPJ acknowledging their letter and RJR is to be written to expressing concern and asking for an indication of their treatment of WPJ news releases. A copy of this should go to the WPJ.

59. Clifton and Ben from the Executive are to represent the Association at the seminar in Cuba from June 11 - 21. Ben will attend the seminar on his way from the FELAP Executive meeting in Mexico. The third representative would be someone who is willing to pay their fare. Checks on this are to be made at the Gleaner and JBC. A cable is to be sent to Checa asking FELAP to send the ticket for Ben. He should be asked to send a ticket with routing Kingston - Mexico - Havana - Kingston.

50. Desmond raised the fact that the PAJ had been named as a member of the solidarity committee with the Sandinist Movement in Nicaragua. The Executive felt that membership on this Committee had to be discussed further. Desmond is to attend the next meeting of the Committee as observer and point out that the question of our membership had not yet been decided by the Executive.

51. The meeting was adjourned.

DEMOCRATISATION IN THE MEDIA

At present workers in all the major media organisations in the country are struggling for the introduction of a greater level of worker democracy within their organisations. The Press Association, as that organisation which represents a large section of these workers has an interest in helping in formulating the guidelines for the implementation of worker democracy in the media.

Such a move is consistent with the government's policy on worker democracy outlined by the Prime Minister in his recent budget speech.

The media organisations, like most other institutions in the country, have been structured in a manner which excludes the creative input of the broad base of workers in these organisations.

At present the workers are not involved in determining what is written or broadcast through the media. At the same time these very workers are the ones who are called upon to prepare materials produced. In addition these workers are in greater contact with the people through their work and their own social background thereby being better placed to reflect the feelings and aspirations of the majority of the people through the media.

A more democratic media will allow workers to apply their workers to apply their skills in a more creative and meaningful way. It would also draw on their experience gained from their contact with the people and so enable the media to better represent and reflect the realities within the society and the aspirations of the people.

For the media to fulfill these objectives worker participation should not be confined to the making of day to day decisions. We feel that the workers should be involved in top policy making. This view is also firmly supported by the government and the Advisory Committee on worker participation.

In their Report the Committee said "...token representation on the Board of Directors could be self-defeating ... institutions devised to involve workers in making top policy decisions should

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reflect a substantial and effective representation of workers on them".

We also recognise government's stated intention to revise the existing Company Law to allow worker representation on boards and urge that this be done as soon as possible so that real worker participation can be meaningfully pursued.

The proposed National Media Council should be established as soon as possible. This Council should have the responsibility of supervising the implementation of worker participation in the media and for setting and maintaining standards of operations in the media. It should also determine guidelines for national media directions and provide the necessary facilities and the framework within which the media can effectively function. The membership of the Council should include representatives from all major media organisations and the Press Association of Jamaica.

The following proposals consider the government owned media e.g. JBC and API separate from the private owned media where control of operations in the final analysis remain among the shareholders.

PROPOSALS

Rights of workers in both government and private owned media

All workers should have the right to join the trade union of their choice.

Each worker should have the right to stand for elections to councils.

Each worker should on request have access to his/her personal files.

Each worker should have the right to appeal to the Operations Council on any matter he or she feels deserves such attention and the council should grant this hearing within 14 days.

The existence of department councils and the operations council should not affect normal trade union activities.

Workers have a right to recall elected members on either council by 2/3 majority at a general staff meeting of the body of workers the particular council member represents.

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Government organisations

Within these organisations - API and JBC - the bodies of authority should be the Department Council at the local level and the Operations Council as the main policy making body.

Department Councils

Composition

The department council should be comprised of the Head of the department and an agreed number of elected workers consistent with the amount of people in the department. The council should however not be less than four persons. The council should also include the union delegate in the department if there is a union. Where one department has a variety of occupational sections, the council should reflect this by having representation from each of these areas. In cases where there are departments with less than six persons they should join with another department with similar activities for the purposes of forming a department council. Each member of the council should have one vote and a recording secretary should be selected either from among those on the council or from outside. In the latter case the recording secretary would not have a vote.

Responsibilities

The department councils will:-

1. Plan, organise direct and control the department's operations.
2. Make recommendations to the operations council on the appointment, dismissal and disciplining of staff in the department.
3. Devise the best means of developing and using ideas and experience of the staff.
4. Determine the general principles governing conditions of service except where these are already determined by trade union or the civil service regulations e.g. recruitment, hours of work, promotions, discipline tenure and remuneration.
5. Reviewing production and output with a view to increasing

this and improving the organisation in the department

6. Monitoring the quality and content of the output of the department.

7. Sending forward proposals on acres of the organisation's work to the operations council.

The chairpersons of these councils should be elected at the first meeting of the council. Each council should meet at least once per week and there should be a general meeting of all staff in the department at least once per month. These meetings should be called by the chairperson of the department council.

Relationship between Dept. councils and the operations council

An agreed number of persons, but no less than two, from the department council should be elected by the staff in the department to sit on the operations council. The head of the department should also be eligible for election to the operations council.

Operations council

The membership to this council should consist of 60% employees, including the Chief union delegate where there is a union. The remaining 40% should be comprised of the Financial Controller, the administrative head of the organisation and government representatives. Chairperson of the council should be elected at the first meeting of the council. The administrative head should not be eligible for election, as chairperson.

Responsibilities

The operations council should be the highest executive authority within the organisation and will determine the policy of the organisation. These responsibilities can be summarised as follows:

- (1) To direct and control the affairs and activities of the organisation in fulfilment of the declared objectives of the organisation, national objectives and in the interest of the majority of the people in the country.
- (2) To ensure that legal obligations of the organisation are properly discharged.

- (3) To direct and control the affairs and activities of the organisation in such a way as to effect the greatest savings and maximum efficiency.
- (4) To lay down guidelines for the activities of various departments.
- (5) To ensure that the executives and officers within the organisation maintain a good reputation for the quality of production and services provided.
- (6) To ensure that equipment and funds are adequately available to support the work of the organisation and to authorise expansions of this work.
- (7) To continuously monitor the organisation's work through reports, accounts, financial statements, statistics submitted and to relate to current and anticipated positions of the organisation with the requirements of policy.
- (8) To approve or confirm appointments, promotions, discipline of executives, including salaries and conditions of service.
- (9) To ensure that relevant developments in technology are adequately appreciated and brought to bear in the formulation and modification of policy.
- (10) To appoint the chief administrator who shall be responsible for co-ordinating the management of the organisation through consultation and collaboration with the Departments Councils.
- (11) Consider for approval the appointment, dismissal and discipline of heads of sections and directors of special areas on joint recommendation of the relevant department council and the chief administrator.
- (12) Consider for approval the appointment of dismissal of all other members of staff on the recommendation of the relevant department council.
- (13) Devising plans for the training and political education of staff and for improved staff relations.

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The operations council should meet at least once per month and there should be a general meeting of all staff called by the chairperson of the C.C. at least quarterly.

PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS

Department councils

The composition and responsibilities for these councils should be the same as for department councils within government organisations.

Operations Council

The operations council should be composed of two worker representatives from each department. The General Manager should also be a member of the O.C. The chairperson of this body should be elected at the first meeting of the council. The Chief union delegate should also be a member of the operations council.

Responsibilities of operations council

The operations council should be the highest decision-making body apart from the Board of Directors. Its responsibilities will be as follows:-

1. The Operations Council alone shall have the power to recommend to the Board of Directors all study grants, scholarships and study leave for all members of staff.
 2. The operations council should have full access to the financial records of the organisation including the salaries and fringe benefits of all members of staff.
 3. The operations council should have access to the file of every member of staff.
 4. The operations council alone should have final say regarding disciplinary action to be taken against any member of staff.
 5. The operations council alone should have the power to dismiss a member of staff on the permanent establishment whether on the recommendation of departmental council and or the general manager.
 6. The operations council should have the power to request and receive information from any source within the
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organisation on any matter on which it needs information to help it arrive at a decision.

7. All employees are subject to the decisions of the council.

Meetings of the operations council should be held once per month and a general meeting of all staff should be called by the chairman of the council at once every three months.

Board of Directors

Composition

The Board of Directors should consist of 2/3 representatives selected by the owners of the organisation and 1/3 elected by the workers from among their members of the operations council.

Responsibilities

1. To ensure that the organisation's legal obligations are discharged.
2. To formulate general policy for the operations of the organisation in keeping with defined objectives and national object and in the interest of the majority of the people in the country.
3. To determine the range and volume of operations to be undertaken by the organisation.
4. To ensure that equipment and funds are adequately available to support the work of the organisation and to allow further expansion.
5. To monitor continuously the organisation's activities by considering reports, accounts, statistics submitted by the operations council and to relate the current and anticipated position of the organisation with the requirements of policy.
6. To ensure that the organisation remains viable.

Meetings of the Board of Directors should take place once per month.

Editorial

The thousands of words which have been spent in the past years discussing Freedom of the Press in Jamaica in purely conceptual terms, have been changed now to a situation in which the concept is being given some element of reality.

It is, however, not something to be achieved easily, as in being demonstrated from day to day. Indeed, one of the first stages of this reality of Press Freedom has been the recent opportunity of all democratic journalists to see clearly what Press Freedom is not.

* * IT IS NOT THE PRESENTATION OF ONE VIEW TO THE EXCLUSION
OF OTHERS

**IT IS NOT THE DISMISSAL OF JOURNALISTS WHO ACTIVELY TRY
TO ALLOW FOR EXPRESSION OF A RANGE OF VIEWS AND THE
EXCLUSION OF NONE.

*IT IS NOT PHYSICAL ASSAULT ON JOURNALISTS WHO PRESENT VIEWS WHICH DO NOT FIND FAVOUR WITH CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS.

But having eliminated some of those factors which stand in the way of Press Freedom in Jamaica, it is now becoming clear that one of the very foundations of attaining this freedom, for which we are still fighting, is the movement for democracy in the operations of the media. It is also becoming clear that one of the most potent forces in the fight for Press Freedom in Jamaica today is that growing tide of awareness that freedom must come with democracy.

And this is where the crunch is. It is between those who speak about Freedom of the Press and of democracy and mean what they say, and those who speak of Freedom of the Press and democracy but do not mean what they say.

And this defence of democracy as a pillar of press freedom relates not only to the output of the media, but to the operations of the media houses. In the same manner as obtains with trade unions, staff associations and similar groupings, discipline can be meted out to errant journalists by their peers, on the basis of proper assessment, and not from outside, on the basis of political and commercial considerations, petty jealousy and favouritism.

--CANUTE JAMES, PRESIDENT

END OF THE "GAG WRIT?"

By Roy Fairclough.+++

THE SUPREME COURT RECENTLY HANDED DOWN ITS DECISION IN THE CASE OF CONTEMPT OF COURT BROUGHT AGAINST THE GLEANER COMPANY AND IT EDITOR, HECTOR WYNTER.

IN ONE RESPECT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE CASE WAS BROUGHT SINCE NO REASONABLE PERSON COULD CONVICT ON THE EVIDENCE. ON THIS VIEW, THE RESULT IS A VICTORY FOR THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS UNDER SEIGE.

THE DECISION, HOWEVER, HAS SERVED THE USEFUL FUNCTION OF SETTING OUT THE LAW RELATING TO THE PUBLICATION OF MATERIAL CONCERNING A MATTER WHICH IS BEFORE THE COURTS. TO A LARGE EXTENT IN JAMAICA, THE MEDIA HAVE BEHAVED AS IF ONCE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS ARE INITIATED THEN ITS 'CURTAINS DOWN' FOR ANY COMMENTARY ON THE MATTER. THE CONTRARY VIEW OF THOSE WHO URGED THAT THIS TOO NARROW AND RESTRICTIVE AN INTERPRETATION OF THE 'SUB-JUDICE' RULE, HAS BEEN VINDICATED BY THE REASONING OF THE FULL COURT.

THE REASONING OF THE COURT FINDS SUPPORT IN A PAMPHLET HEADED "CONTEMPT OF COURT" AND CONTAINING COUNSEL'S OPINION ON THE APPLICATION OF THE SUB JUDICE PRINCIPLE IN RELATION TO FREEDOM OF DISCUSSION AND ENQUIRY, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED BY THE FARQUHARSON INSTITUTE IN JUNE 1970.

THE TIMIDITY OF THE MEDIA WAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF TIME AND TIME AGAIN BETWEEN 1962 AND 1972 BY THE JED AND THE PNP HAS SINCE 1972 AVAILED THEMSELVES OF THE POPULAR, THOUGH MISTAKEN VIEW OF THE AMBIT OF THE SUB JUDICE RULE.

CASE SUMMARY

IN THE CASE AGAINST THE GLEANER COMPANY, THE FOLLOWING WERE THE MAIN POINTS:

- (1) THAT CONTEMPT BEING A CRIMINAL OFFENCE, ALL THE INCIDENTS OF A CRIMINAL TRIAL AS REGARDS THE BURDEN AND STANDARD OF PROOF APPLIED.
- (2) THAT "WHERE A PUBLIC DISCUSSION IS IN PROGRESS, THE DIALOGUE DOES NOT COME TO A FULL STOP, LIKE A STOP WATCH, MERELY BECAUSE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS ARE LAUNCHED".
- (3) THAT THE OFFENDING PUBLICATION MUST BE PROVED TO BE 'CALCULATED' TO PREJUDICE A FAIR TRIAL OF THE ISSUES BEFORE THE COURT.
- (4) THAT THE TEST FOR DETERMINING WHETHER THE PUBLICATION WAS SO CALCULATED IS WHETHER THE PUBLICATION "IS LIKELY TO PREJUDICE THE FAIR TRIAL OF THE ACTION". IN ADDITION, THE RISK OF PREJUDICE MUST BE "REAL", AND WILL BE HELD NOT TO BE REAL IF "TOO MUCH STRAINING AND IMAGINATION" ARE NEEDED TO SHOW THE LIKELIHOOD OF PREJUDICE.
- (5) THAT IN CASES SUCH AS THE PRESENT, THE COURT WILL TRY TO BALANCE THE COMPETING INTERESTS OR PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY OF THE TRIAL AGAINST FREEDOM OF DISCUSSION.

THE DISAPPOINTMENT THAT SOME MAY FEEL OVER THE FAILURE TO CONVICT THE GLEANER OVER WRITINGS OF THE ARCH-REACTIONARY "SCREWTAPE" SHOULD NOT OVERSHADOW THE FACT THAT THE REASONING OF THE FULL COURT PUTS THE JOURNALIST ON A SURER FOOTING.

FOR THE BOLD JOURNALIST, THIS CASE MIGHT HAVE SOUNDED THE DEATH KNELL FOR THE "GAGGING WRIT".

(+++ Roy Fairclough is a former journalist now a practising attorney at law.)

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THE MONEY — WHOSE INTEREST ???
THE TRUSTEES — WHOSE TRUSTEES ???

COME DISCUSS THE TRUSTEES QUESTION
AT THE PAJ SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

CURPHEY PLACE

SUNDAY OCTOBER 2ND, 11 AM!!!



PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA
SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT
1976-77.

Your Executive Committee held 16 meetings, the largest number of meetings held in any one year in the history of the Association. There was also one special general meeting.

Following was the attendance at meetings of the Committee:

Canute James	6
Ben Brodie	10
George Lee	15
Bill Haughton	11
Ken Chaplin	15
Elaine Wallace	11
Fitzroy Nation	8
Terry Smith	10
Errol Lee	3
Earl Witter	10
Patrick Smikle	12

During the period under review Membership in the Association increased by 60 to 200 while membership in the Press Club increased by 15 to 45.

Professional

A Committee comprising Messrs. Canute James (convenor), Ben Brodie, Earl Witter, T.E. Sealy and Miss Elean Thomas was set up to look into the establishment of a Trust Fund (i) to assist journalists in need: (ii) determine the powers of the trustees: (iii) recommend other areas of assistance through the fund such as education and legal assistance.

The work of the committee has been held up because efforts to find the Trust Deed have been unsuccessful so far. However, the matter is being pursued vigorously.

Your Executive issued a statement condemning the attack on Granville Carr, a reporter of the Daily Gleaner while he was legitimately carrying out his professional activity. The state-

ment also pointed out that media managers, reporters and photographers should exercise more care in their coverage of politically volatile issues.

Your Executive met with the Prime Minister, Hon. Michael Manley and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Edward Seaga, separately.

The main areas of discussions with Mr. Manley were:

- : The role of the media in national development.
- : Legal Constraints on the media
- : Relationship between the Association and the Mass Communications Institute at the U.W.I.
- : Protection of journalists at political meetings.
- : Support from the PNP leadership for the Association's initiatives in holding discussions in politically volatile areas so that the people in these areas can understand the role of the press and functions of reporters.

Mr. Manley expressed the view that the media have the responsibility to give direction to the aspiration of the people and to educate and prepare them for their role in national development.

In relation to the legal constraints affecting the work of journalists, the Prime Minister suggested that the Association formulate recommendations to the Constitution Reform Committee.

Mr. Manley promised to ensure that reporters were given as much protection as possible at PNP meetings.

Mr. Seaga felt that it was not the role of the Press to adopt particular bias. The press should stick to reporting the news and commenting thereon.

On the matter of legal constraints, Mr. Seaga said he had not looked on the laws, but was of the view that some reporters were overplaying fears. He said that the Association should be concerned with other forms of muzzling and suggested that the Association ask for clarification of Regulation 15 in the Emergency Powers.

He informed the Committee that the ban of Daily News and JBC was a temporary measure because of certain problems, but had been lifted. He felt that the Broadcasting Authority should have more power.

Your Committee found it necessary to issue a statement replying to certain charges made by columnist, Thomas Wright in

the Daily Gleaner.

Mr. Wright specifically criticised the composition of the leadership of the Executive and charged that the Executive had shown "extraordinary bias".

Your Committee pointed out that the officers of the Association were democratically elected and that the Association had in fact shown a healthy bias rather than an "extraordinary bias".

Your Executive wrote to RJR expressing dissatisfaction with the ban placed on publicising some of the activities of Phillip Agee in Jamaica and sought an explanation. RJR has not yet replied.

Your Executive made representations to RJR on behalf of a member, Mr. Clement Ramsay concerning the arbitrary change of time of his Spanish newscast from 5 p.m. to 4 p.m. and is still awaiting acknowledgement of the letter.

Your Committee offered its services as a mediator in the issue between the Jamaica Teachers Association and the Teachers for a Democratic JTA.

The offer was made because the Committee felt that the continuing rift among a profession with a special responsibility for moulding the character of the nation is, to say the least, highly undesirable and amounts to an unfortunate example, especially for the youth.

In offering its services Your Executive made it clear to both organisations that it was not the intention of the Association to lay blame or to interfere in a private matter. Rather the Association was moved by a desire to see that the motion is protected and given the full benefit of the knowledge, experience, expertise and decorum of the teaching profession, attributes which are crucial to Jamaica's development.

The Association's offer was accepted by the TDJTA but rejected by the JTA. We could not therefore proceed any further in the matter. The Committee made public the correspondence between the Association and both bodies.

The Latin American Federation of Journalists approved an application for the Association's membership. The decision to join the Latin American Federation of Journalists was taken at a special general meeting of the Association.

Jamaica was not represented at the first anniversary celebrations of the Federation in June.

This was caused by a mix-up in the transportation arrangements as a result of a strike of the travel agency in Mexico City with which the Federation booked the air ticket.

The Federation booked the air ticket in the name of the President who could not go. The second vice-president agreed to represent the Association but the change could not be made in time because of the strike.

The meeting was of the view that there is dire need for journalists in Latin America and the Caribbean to unite in the interest of the profession and the region.

The meeting felt that the aims and objectives of the Federation are in keeping with the interests of Jamaican journalists.

A Constitutional reform committee was established to formulate recommendations on the constitutional rights and responsibilities of the communications media in Jamaica.

Members of the Committee are Mr. Earl Witter (convenor), Calvin Bowen, Rupert Lewis, Barbara Gloudon, T.B. Sealy, Ronnie Thwaites, Terry Smith and Denzil Dunkley.

A freedom of the Press Committee was set up. Members of the Committee are Peter Abrahams, Elaine Wallace, Wilton Dyer, Ronnie Thwaites, Jennifer Ffrench, Hopeton Dunn, Canute James and Patrick Smikle.

Your Executive sought clarification from the Bank of Jamaica on how the new foreign exchange restrictions would affect journalists going overseas on assignments.

The Bank has arranged a system by which the media houses make application to the Minister of Information and Culture. The applicant then receives a letter from the Minister which is taken to the Bank for the release of the necessary exchange.

The allowances are as follows:

Europe \$75 to \$100 a day

USA \$60 to 75 a day

Caribbean and Latin America \$60 to \$75 a day.

Arising from inaccurate reporting on the York Town incident by certain local and overseas news media, your Committee recommended

the following guidelines to assist the media in getting the facts during the State of Emergency:

- : All reports or statements dealing with political violence and security operations should be re-checked with the Joint Police /Military Command Information Centre.
- : The Information Centre should be strengthened to improve its efficiency.
- : There should be a register of all correspondents of overseas news media and wire services.
- : Arrangements should be made for a copy of each story sent out of Jamaica by correspondents to be kept by the Information Centre.

Your Executive also called on the media to refrain from publishing inflammatory statements including those by columnists. It also requested the media to be more responsible and to put the well being of the nation above all other interests, in keeping with the Association's Code of Ethics.

Your Executive set up a special committee to investigate complaints by two Ministers of Government, Hon. D.K. Duncan and Hon. Arnold Bertram that the Daily Gleaner published false information about them in the column, 'Listening Post'.

Members of the committee were Messrs. Peter Abrahams (chairman), Fred Wilmot, Earl Witter and Roy Reynolds.

The Committee twice invited the Editor of the Gleaner to meet with it, but he refused on both occasions. He questioned the Association's jurisdiction in the matter and suggested that the complaint be referred by the Association to the Caribbean Press Council.

Your Executive decided that the Association, a sovereign body representing the largest number of journalists in Jamaica, had jurisdiction in the matter. Both complainants also said that they recognised the sovereignty of the Association and wished it to carry out the investigation.

The Committee, therefore, proceeded in the matter and carried out a comprehensive enquiry and found that the information published in the column was totally false.

The Committee's report was accepted by your Executive which issued a statement condemning the irresponsible journalism contained in the article and called upon the Gleaner to exercise more responsibility since freedom and responsibility go hand in hand.

The statement and report were sent to all media for publication, but your Executive is not satisfied with the treatment given to the statement and report by certain sections of the media, including the Gleaner.

Steps are therefore being taken by the Executive to publish a summarised version of the report in the form of advertisements.

During the period under review the Caribbean Press Council set up a committee to hear complaints of discrimination by the media against the rastafarians. Your Committee did not appear before the Council because it did not recognise the authority of the Council to investigate the complaints of Messrs. Duncan and Bertram against the gleaner. However, the Executive made it clear that members of the Association were free to appear before the Council if they so desired.

At the same time the Executive decided that it would begin its own investigation into the matter and urged its members in various sections of the media to be alive to the issue and report and follow up cases of discrimination.

The Executive also decided that when the PAJ makes its submission to the Constitution Reform Committee, the subject of human rights treatment, particularly rastafarians be strongly included.

Your Executive made representations to the Minister of Information and Culture seeking participation in the establishment of the National Communications Council. The Executive also feels that it should have representation on the Council.

Your Executive has prepared and circulated a paper on the democratization of the media which will be dealt with at this meeting.

Your Executive made strong representations to the Gleaner Company over its decision to make 71 workers redundant and called upon the company to consider re-employing the workers

The Association will have to pay close attention to the

whole matter of redundancy in the media industry in the light of the serious unemployment situation.

Mr. Dudley Thompson complained to the Executive about certain statements made by Mr. Wilmot Perkins in his column in the Daily Gleaner.

The Executive took the decision that while the Association is concerned about the level of expression by certain journalists it could not deal with them under the present Code of Ethics.

However, the Code of Ethics is being reviewed and a Professional Board is to be set up to deal with complaints of this nature.

SEPROD AWARDS :

The Seprod Awards for journalism for the year 1975 were presented at the Association's annual dinner.

The National Press Award went to the Women of Jamaica in recognition of the tremendous contribution in national life by the women of Jamaica.

Two new categories - Satirical Award and the Sub-Editing Award have been added for 1976 awards bringing the number of awards to eighteen.

Entries for the 1976 Awards are now being considered by the special panel of judges.

The delay in making the awards in June this as your Committee had planned was caused by the lengthy discussions and negotiations between the Executive and Seprod over the selections of new judges.

The final panel agreed on consists of Messrs. Vic Reid, Fred Wilmot, Wenty Bowen, Mr. John Harrison, Managing Director of Seprod as Chairman, and Mrs. David Coore.

This panel will make its recommendations to the Awards Committee consisting of its members and the Executive Committee of the PAJ.

Your Executive and Seprod agreed in principle that a system should be devised under which judges would monitor outstanding work

in journalism and present a report every three months and meet at the end of the year to make its final recommendations.

The Education Committee is now seeking other sponsors of awards for outstanding work of journalism.

The new news letter by the Association - the first in many years - was well received. Four issues of the newsletter were published in 6 months.

The rules of the Press Club and the Association were amended (see minutes of the special general meeting attached hereto), the Association has accepted in principle the need to establish a professional Board for journalist.

Members of this Board will be elected at this annual general meeting. Your Executive has agreed that the first task of the Board will be an examination of the Code of Ethics.

During the year under review the Association supported in principle Government's proposal to establish local control over RJR, but stressed the need for workers at the station to have a say in its running.

A Committee was appointed to carry out the education and training functions of the Association. Members of the Committee were Mr. George Lee (convenor), Emsley Pearson, Elean Thomas, Wenty Bowen, Patrick Smikle, Barbara Gloudon, Terry Smith, Junior Dowie and Fitzroy Nation.

Projects Undertaken so far are:

- : A training seminar which was well supported by the media houses and was successful in many respects.
- : Public seminars on the Production plan, the CIA, Southern Africa, and the law and the press.
- : Selection of the Alcan Journalism scholar for 1976. Another scholar for 1977 is now being selected.
- : Selection of two journalists for the Rotary Scholarship.
- : Opened discussions with JAMALCO for the award of a scholarship to the Journalism Degree course at UWI.
- : Held discussions with several other institutions on the possibility of awarding scholarships both locally and overseas.

: Selected two journalists - Messrs Harris Dias of the Daily Gleaner and Granville Newell of RJR to participate in ALACODE'S Training Seminar in Trinidad.

The Committee was handicapped in its work by the lack of funds and it is evident that during the coming year will have to seek funds from the Trustees for training. This Committee is seeking a voice on the policy committee of the Mass Communication Institute.

The education and training committee and the entertainment committee were the most active sub-committee during the period under review.

A number of social functions were staged at the Press Club - some were successful and others were poorly attended. The Press Club bar continues to suffer from the lack of popular support, although there has been some improvement.

The Entertainment Committee continues to honour visiting journalists and in this respect a party was held for visiting writers who covered the Pakistan Tour.

The Committee sponsored games night at the club and has asked each media through their representatives to put on a similar function at least once a week.

Members of the Committee were Mr. Bill Haughton (chairman), Mrs. Carmen Tipling, Miss Beverly Dingham, Mr. Maurice McFarlane, Ralston Smith, George Clare and Vic Bowen.

'PRESS FREEDOM' IS

When the Gleaner first agreed to give a column on the Editorial page to working journalists we were very sceptical. We welcomed it (it is something we had pressured for vigorously) but warned that the Editor still had a right to reject any of the columns submitted by a staffer if it did not suit his viewpoint or the viewpoint held by the owners of the Gleaner. Just this week our fears were realised when the columns submitted by Harris Dias and Desmond Allen on the Canute James issue were turned down. As a result both have stopped writing for the editorial page. This just goes to show what Freedom of the Press really means to the Gleaner. Columns by John Hearne, Perkins and D'Costa dealing with this same issue were published. But the views of the two working journalists did not mesh with those held by the Gleaner and so they were rejected. So to the owners and controllers of the Gleaner, Freedom of the Press means giving exposure only to views which defend the interests of the rich and privileged in the society.

LETTER MADNESS

The new Industrial Relations Manager has started off in fine style, sending letters flying all over the place. One recent piece of correspondence says those workers who were sick last Saturday and could not come to work will not be paid for that day! While we wait to take appropriate action in the right place, should this threat be carried out today, the workers in the other media will be making a contribution today to ensure that the Gleaner workers who lost the day's pay are in fact paid.

Printed and published by the Union of Journalists and Allied Employees, 98 Duke Street, Kingston

UJAE NEWS LETTER

No 34, Sept 9, 1977

Voice of the Union of Journalists and Allied Employees

WHAT THE ENQUIRY SAYS

All those who thought we were chatting nonsense when we constantly warned workers about further redundancy now have it all in the report of the Board of Inquiry which was handed down just yesterday.

The report states in part that "there are present plans for effecting further future redundancies." Do you want anything plainer than that?

As for the 71 workers, the report says they can only be brought back if a flexible work week is introduced, saving the company \$600,000 annually. As an alternative, the report suggests an adjustment in the overtime arrangement to save the jobs of 35 workers.

The report recommends that the company introduce better financial arrangements, better utilisation of the plant and machinery and a reduction in the size of the Gleaner to save on newsprint. Failure to implement these suggestions, the report said, "would give the company no alternative but to effect further redundancies." We will publish the full text of the report during next week.

THE JAMES AFFAIR

The Canute James issue has been referred to a special commission of Inquiry to be set up by the government. This matter has forged new unity between media workers. Our task, as an advanced body of workers who are conscious of the need for worker unity at all levels is to keep this flame burning.

EDITORIAL

THIS HAS BEEN A MOST INTERESTING WEEK FOR MEDIA WORKERS IN GENERAL AND FOR GLEANER WORKERS IN PARTICULAR. DURING THIS PERIOD TWO TRENDS WHICH HAVE BEEN LYING UNDER THE SURFACE EMERGED. THE FIRST IS THE STEPPING UP OF THE OLD MANAGEMENT TACTIC OF DIVIDE AND RULE: TO HARASS WORKERS AND OUR UNIONS AND SPREAD PROPOGANDA.

THIS POSES NO PROBLEM FOR US. WE EXPECT THIS, FOR WE REGOGNISE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MAIN TACTICS OF THE MANAG EMEMB IN ITS ATTEMPT TO CRUSH OUR UNITY. IN FACT WE CAN EXPECT TO SEE MORE OF THIS. THIS IS A CERTAINTY. OUR CONCERN IS WITH THE SECOND TREND IN WHICH WORKERS HAVE FALLEN FOR THE MANAGEMENT TRICK AND HAVE ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE USED AS TOOLS IN THIS PLAN=SOMETIMES UNCONSCIOUSLY.

EXPERIENCE SHOULD HAVE DEMONSTRATED FULLY TO THESE WORKERS THAT THE MANAGEMENT PEOPLE WILL SMILE UP WITH THEM FOR A WHILE AND EVEN GIVE THEM A POSITION OR A RAISE. BUT SOONER OR LATER MANAGEMENT'S SMILE WILL TURN INTO A BIG UGLY SCOWL. REMEMBER THAT.

IT IS OUR DUTY TO WARN THOSE UNSUSPECTING WORKERS AND URGE THEM TO THINK CAREFULLY.

CONSIDER FOR EXAMPLE: AFTER YOU GET THIS ONE LITTLE PROMOTION HOW MANY DECADES WILL PASS BEFORE YOU GET ANOTHER ONE? LIVING EXAMPLES OF PERSONS WHO HAVE SLAVED FOR YEARS FOR THE GLEANER WITHOUT REWARD ARE AROUND YOU. THINK CAREFULLY.

AND ALL WORKERS MUST REMEMBER THIS: WHEN YOU HEAR A RUMOUR ASK YOURSELF, "WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS RUMOUR? MANAGEMENT OR WORKERS?" AND THEN "WHAT EFFECT WILL THIS HAVE ON THE UNITY OF WORKERS?"

REMEMBER: Y O U R U N I O N IS YOUR ONLY H O P E!!

THE RIGHT TO DISSENT

by Vincent Tullock and Owen James

Once more we as members of the UJAE have proven that the organisation is a democratic one not only in name but in nature.

The right to dissent was exercised on Tuesday afternoon when in a mature manner we questioned certain actions by our leaders relating th the Canute James-Daily News affair. We are aware that some members believe that to dissent is dangerous because we would unknowingly destroy the union. This we dispute. Democracy means that everyone has the right to voice his or her opinion.

We cannot and must not yield that important right. It is interesting to note that the hard working head of the union did not overreact when a barrage of criticism was levelled at him. He identified the problems and analysed them in detail in full view of the membership.

This is a healthy sign and proves that the membership of the union does not comprise of automators but of intelligent beings capable of holding individual views and of expressing them.

When any organisation begins to think that dissent is a crime or disprave of it in such a way as to obtain popular approval for this stance; then that is a time for serious reflection.

WHAT DO OTHER WORKERS THINK?

URGENT MEETING TODAY
AT 4 00 /1
(VENUE TO BE ANNOUNCED)

THE LETTERS

No. 1

Sept. 3

To the Editor,

Sir,

We regret to inform you that as of today we will no longer contribute to the editorial page of the Daily Gleaner.

We have taken this decision in view of the rejection of our recent columns which dealt with the issue of dismissed Daily News Editor Canute James, and this in spite of the fact that other columnists have been allowed space on the editorial page to comment on the issue.

We view your rejection of our columns as a mockery of Press Freedom and an act which gives credence to the accusations that the Gleaner's editorial policy allows the views of some people to be published while the views of others are suppressed.

We look forward to continue making our contribution on the editorial page as soon as you are prepared to publish all shades of opinion in accordance with the dictates of a Free Press.

Yours respectfully,

Desmond Allen
Harris Dias.

No. 2

THAT DAME DAY MR. WYNTER REPLIED TO DIAS POINTING OUT THAT THE COLUMN HAD NOT BEEN REJECTED BY HIM PERSONALLY. HE ALSO ALONG WITH MR. NEITA HAD HAD A MARATHON CONVERSATION WITH MR. ALLEN DURING WHICH BOTH SAID THAT MR. ALLEN'S VIEWS WERE NOT HIS AND THAT HIS COLUMN WAS EMOTIONAL AND SUBJECTIVE (MR. NEITA)

No. 2

Sept. 7

To the Editor,

Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter dated September 3, pointing out that my column on the Canute James issue had not been rejected by you personally.

My understanding is that as Editor you take final responsibility for decisions of this nature.

However, in view of your explanation that you did not see the column I am re-submitting a retyped copy for your consideration.

Yours respectfully,

H. Dias.

No. 4

Mr. Harris Dias,

Dear Mr. Dias,

Further to my letter in acknowledgement of yours of September 3 and to yours of September 7, I understand that you released your letter to the radio and TV which was used as a part of their round-up on the dispute between the Daily News and its editor. You did not have the grace to tell me that you proposed to publish internal matters of the Gleaner in the media.

As your letter was a misrepresentation (a) in that it accused me of rejecting an article which you knew I had not even seen, and (b) in that in my absence you had discussed the article with the Managing Editor and Legal Adviser, and agreed to recast the article for publication, and (c) in that on the

No. 4 (contd.)

basis of the misrepresentation you accused me of not allowing different shades of opinion, I must ask you to submit an apology at your earliest convenience.

I cannot accept your letter of September 7 as an apology. Of course I must take full responsibility for everything published in this paper whether or not the authority is delegated to you or anyone else. But it is something else to accuse me of rejection when you know I had not even seen it!

The apology I have requested is for the misrepresentation in the letter signed by you, and for your release of internal matters to the Press without the grace to inform me first that it was a public letter. I am of course prepared to consider the article which you promised to re-cast after your discussion with the Managing Editor and Legal Adviser, but only after your apology.

Hector Wynter
Editor
September 7, 1977.

No. 5

The Editor,

Sir,

I am receipt of your letter dated September 7 and would like to make the following comments in an effort to clear the air.

You started out by objecting to my release of what you term as "internal matters" of the Gleaner to the media.

As my letter of September 3 states, the issue at stake here has to do with Freedom of the Press and cannot be seen as a matter confined to the Gleaner. In fact it

No. 5 (contd)

affects the whole society and as such cannot be seen in this narrow way.

With regard to the second paragraph of your letter, I have already (a) that it is my under *explained* standing that as editor full responsibility of all editorial matters rests with you (whether you are present or not).

My letter of September 3 was written to you as editor of the Daily Gleaner and with the above understanding of your role and function and in view of your following paragraph affirming this responsibility, there seems to be no need for an apology.

With regard to (b) I had in fact decided to re-cast the column, but on further examination, I saw no need for this and decided that I would like it to be published as is. This would put me up to the original "No" and in view of this I decided on my letter of September 3.

With regard to (c) the fact that both my column and that of Mr. Allen were rejected while those of other writers on the editorial page relating to the same issue, but in a different light were used, is the basis for the statement about "the publication of different shades of opinion". Our articles differed significantly from theirs and in the absence or any libellous or immoral content (as was told to me by Mr. Neita) this is my conclusion.

With regard to apologies, had my understanding of the role and function of an editor been incorrect, I would have humbly tendered an apology, but as it is, you have confirmed my view, making this unnecessary.

Yours respectfully,

Harris Dias

WHAT HARRIS DIAS WROTE

IS THERE A PLAN?

Certain interesting conclusions can be drawn from the dismissal of Mr. Carmute James, editor of the Jamaica Daily News. On the surface his dismissal appears straightforward enough - the end result of a longstanding dispute between a newspaper's owner and its editor over the day to day control of editorial context of the paper.

But the issue to my mind raises questions about the credibility of the local media and about editorial integrity and it also raises questions about freedom of the press and about how far the privately owned media is willing to go to present views serving the interests of the wide majority of the Jamaican people.

Mr. James's dismissal it seems to me cannot be viewed only in this narrow way. It has to be looked at as part of developments which are taking place in the wider society. As such it is important that some attempt be made to put the issue in its proper perspective in order that a proper understanding of the wider issue be arrived at.

To do this, we have to cast our minds back to some recent happenings, some of which have passed almost unnoticed.

We must remember a speech made by one prominent politician in the Senate recently in which he said and I quote: "The struggle and battles we face in Jamaica can be won, but they can also be lost. The decision is ours. This nation has one last chance to make that decision and make it they must within the next twelve months. That is the time frame within which I predict that the decision must be made".

We must also remember another speech made by the president of the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association, Mr. Winston Mahfood recently criticising the Prime Minister, the Hon. Michael Manley, and his announcement that he would be "contacting all non-partisan representative institutions in the country to invite them to the first of a series of public meetings to discuss specific developments in the country. The purpose of such meetings would provide a forum of enquiry independent of the political stream of both parties".

And we must also cast our minds back to a very recent happening when a group of so-called concerned housewives demonstrated at one of the supermarkets in the Corporate Area over shortages. But in a matter of days they sought and became affiliated to the Jamaica Labour Party and was able to conduct a mass meeting at the State Theatre.

We must also remember the recent escalation of the verbal attacks on some members in the government, some of the attacks calling for their removal. And then we must ask ourselves, did all this just happen to have happened, or is there a plan?

The government's recent decision to go to the IMF for aid and its acceptance of the terms laid down has brought, it seems to me severe hardships on the people, and instead of creating more jobs for the jobless and ensure that the basic necessities of life are available, the nation is now faced with a shortage of basic necessities. The government's failure to move swiftly in the defence of the people and against those who continue to pressurize them has resulted in more hardships being applied to the masses.

The people of the country are suffering more and more each day and the plan of certain forces and those who are defending them

and their interests at this time is to play on these hardships and blame them on the government. The media to my mind, is to play a key role in this plan.

The dismissal of Mr. James, a professional journalist who like most of us came up from the ranks and who stoutly defended the right of the broad masses of working people and those who represent their views, had to be seen as part of the general plan.

The issue of professionalism which the Canute James dispute and other developments in the media raise are important; but these developments cannot be viewed narrowly; the attempts to close one section of the print media to views representing the interests of the majority and perhaps to ensure that one kind of view dominate is a significant part of the "war" now being waged on the government by certain forces in the country.

The outcome of this war is of interest to all working people because if the forces are successful in their bid to get rid of the government, the new governors, whoever they may be, may not be able to defend the interests of the ruling class in the traditional way and we might be faced with possibly the most terrible kind of government.

As members of the Press Association of Jamaica (of which I am a member) marched recently, they marched for integrity and professionalism in the media, and integrity to me means, the independence of the journalists from outside forces, and their ability to resist any possible attempts of these forces to influence their work. I have drawn my conclusions. Draw yours.

IS THIS ARTICLE DISTOINTED?

WHAT DESMOND ALLEN WROTE CRY! CRY! O MOTHERLAND!

The hunger and thirst for change in our present conditions linger on. Amidst this we are seeing the rebirth of that patriotic spirit which is demanding that the country move out of this standstill and into high gear for progress.

Right now things can hardly be worst. The country is taking a direction that leaves a growing fear and social uneasiness tugging at the heart of the country. On that most everyone is agreed. We differ on the reasons and what is behind this apparent national decay, but we all agree that the great squeeze is on.

Let no one be so naive as to think that the changes which we called for in December, could be brought about without accompanying hardships and great dislocation. "If we want good we nose must run," a Jamaican saying puts it beautifully. I believe all well-thinking persons will accept this. What we will not accept is the changes being structured and managed by those who serve minority interests.

What we will not accept is that government which started out in the direction we approved, should now sit back and allow this minority class that seem to be trying to take this country into their hands, to walk roughshod over it. We did not elect this minority to run this country. Neither did we elect a government to sit by and watch as the progressive people in this country are being turned back in their struggle to improve the lot of our people.

The dismissal of Canute James - a journalist of utmost professional integrity last Thursday, which has sparked off a series of demonstrations involving thousands of patriotic Jamaicans, is a clear example of the initiative being adopted by this minority class in a new assault on the patriotic and progressive people of our land.

The sudden sending on leave of Mrs. Barbara Gloudon, the beloved and Christian editor of the Star newspaper, is indeed strange. Why strange? strange because under her guidance the publication of divorce cases, which many have complained, were doing irreparable damage to children of divorcees and the parents themselves, has been stopped. Strange because the names of rape victims are no longer published thus saving them great embarrassment, and this under her guidance.

Strange because stories such as "There was blood in the room.... DONKEY RAVISHED" no longer appear to offend the nation's dignity. Strange because the pictures of naked women no longer appear in the Star to sell women cheap. In short under Mrs. Gloudon the Star has changed its image. More emphasis was being placed on the small people of this country. The paper refused to be a political party organ. And all the power and glory to Barbara Gloudon and her team-mates of young progressive journalists in the Union of Journalists and Allied Employees (UJAE).

If under her stewardship sales were falling is it not true that it is because of the economic situation? Isn't Barbara a victim of this new minority initiative? And if this is not so then in whose interest is her forced leave? There are more questions than answers!

The young journalists supported by those elder ones who genuinely want to see Jamaica move ahead to that place where we adequately provide for all our people, took to the streets in demonstration showing solidarity with brother James and sister Gloudon. But the journalists' struggle is part of the wider struggle to achieve a free Jamaica, to unshackle us from the chains of poverty which bind our very souls.

The majority of our people are poor. But we will not suffer ourselves to be subjected for ever to this stark and naked poverty which has handicapped our development. Our mothers and fathers struggled to shake off this yoke. It is not because we were all lazy and lacked initiative that we have remained poor. Indeed some would have us believe that we did not work hard enough. Those who have are really those who worked hard, they say. But that's a lie! Not all reached the top by sheer hard work. Some did. Others reached there because the system assisted them. It did not assist most of us.

I watched as my mother and father worked hard, day and night, trying their hands at many different types of work when they could get it so that their children could get bread to eat, clothes to wear and to go to school. They are not poor because they were lazy. In fact if hard work necessarily made people rich, they would be among the richest. I stand my ground on that. I do not want to hear it as general excuse that the poor are poor because they are lazy.

Now it is time that the working people be given succour. Our voices are going to be heard. The demonstrations are going to grow. Our petitions are going to increase. Cry! Cry! O Motherland Jamaica! Our chains are hard to bear and something has got to give!

WHY WAS IT TURNED BACK?

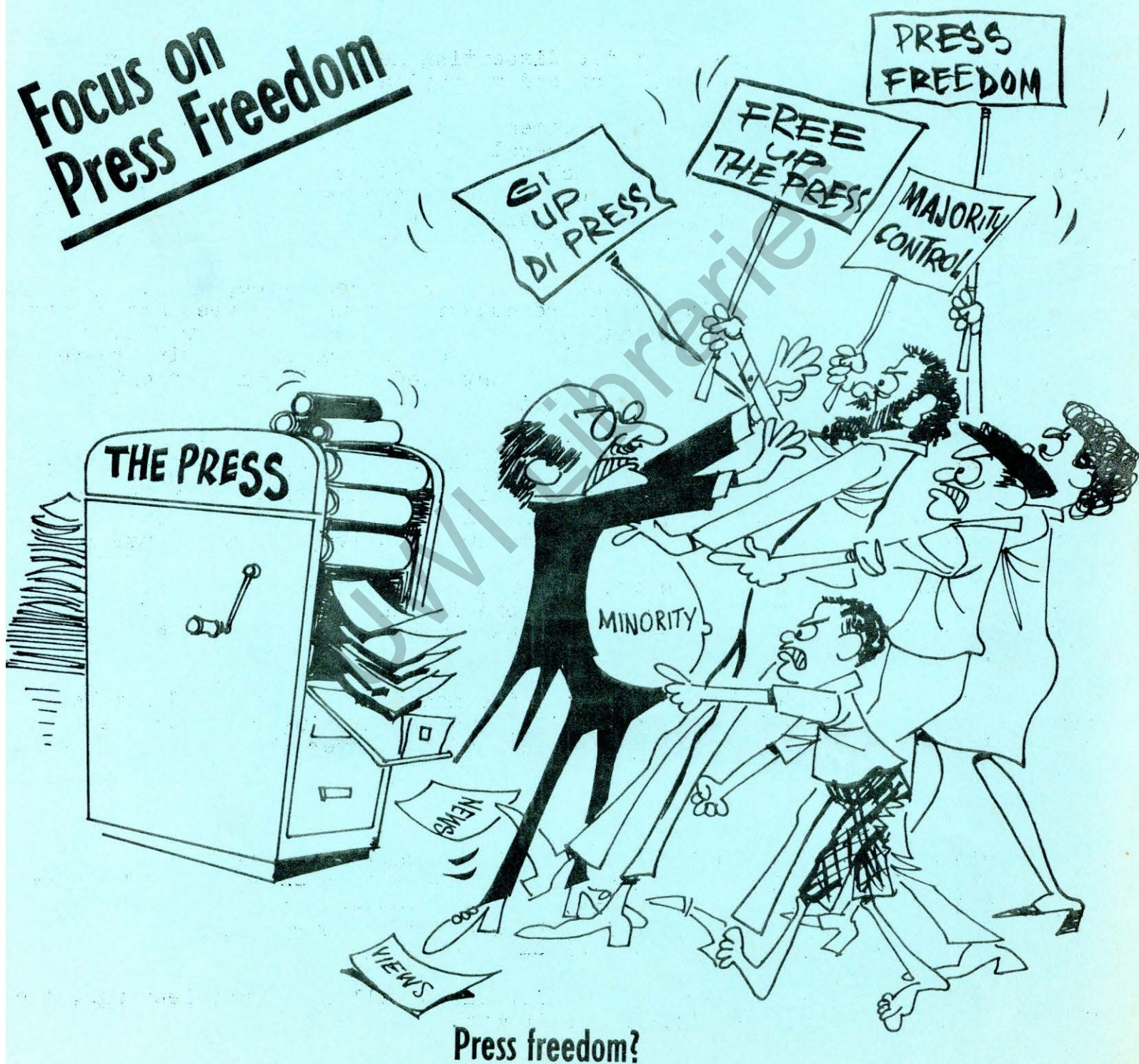
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September 1977

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AGN Reports

The Annual General Meeting of the Association on Sunday, August 28, 1977 took place in the middle of a fast developing crisis in the media, sparked by the dismissal of Daily News Editor Canute James. And, it was on this question that most attention was focussed.

Over one hundred journalists and other interested persons turned out to the Curphey Place meeting to show solidarity with the Daily News workers and the PAJ in the struggle to gain the reinstatement of the dismissed Editor.

After lengthy discussions, the meeting took a decision to stage a march from Half Way Tree to the Daily News, to publicly show our stand against minority and un-democratic control of the media. The meeting also voted to give official support to a march by progressive organisations in support of the same principle.

And the membership (save for two dissenting members) gave its firm support to a resolution calling for an end to capitalist control of the media.

In his address, President Canute James noted the attacks on the Association and on the profession in general, over the previous year, and urged members to learn from these attacks. He warned about the growing tendency of commercial interests to seek to determine media output. Journalists he said, should consider organised resistance to "this cancer overtaking the profession", as it was a threat to their credibility.

In other business, the meeting mandated a small committee, headed by Ronnie Thwaites, to investigate the entire question of the Trustees and report forward to a Special General Meeting, which has since been set for Sunday October 2nd (this Sunday). Up to the time of the last General Meeting there was still no word on the location of the Trust Deed, the legal document in which the authority of the Trustees is said to be vested.

Ronnie Thwaites informed the meeting that he had done some investigation on the matter and this had led him to believe that the Trust Deed could be in the Bank. However, the Bank had refused to disclose any information on the matter to him. Members felt that a situation in which the Association's funds were outside the control and scrutiny of their Executive, was unacceptable.

Elections of members to the Professional Board, which should have taken place at the meeting, was deferred. Consideration and ratification of a draft Worker Participation proposal from the former Executive, was also deferred.

Former Secretary Ken Chaplin advised the meeting that he would not be standing for any office in the association, and the meeting recorded the Association's appreciation for the work Ken had done over the 18 years he held office.

The new officers are as follows:

Canute James -- President.	Elaine Wallace -- Secretary.
Ben Brodie -- 1st Vice President.	Patrick Smikle -- 2nd Vice President
Cynthia Williams -- Asst. Secretary.	George Lee -- Treasurer.
Executive members: Fitzroy Nation, Hopeton Dunn, Terry Smith and Granville Newell. Ronnie Thwaites -- Legal Advisor.	

The new Executive has already met five times, all Emergency Meetings, the first one being held at the Ministry of Labour.

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THE CANUTE JAMES AFFAIR -BY PATRICK SMIKLE

MEDIA WORKERS UNITE!

The dispute between the workers and management of the Jamaica Daily News, now being described as "The Canute James Affair", has once again brought into national focus the struggle by journalists for participation in the day to day management of their workplaces.

This is not a new struggle. It is a struggle as old as the profession itself. But what distinguishes the Canute James Affair from any of the JBC or Gleaner strikes for example, is the prompt and resolute manner in which media workers rallied in support of James and his colleagues at the Daily News.

Another unique and outstanding event coming out of this affair was the role played by the Press Association of Jamaica. The PAJ for the first time acted like an organisation representing the majority of journalists in the country and placed itself in the forefront of the struggle to reinstate Canute James and place editorial control of the Daily News where it rightfully belongs, in the hands of the workers.

--DISMISSED--

On Thursday, August 25, Uptal Ganguli, the Managing Director of Communications Corp. of Jamaica, owners and publishers of the Jamaica Daily News, dismissed the editor, Canute James.

James' dismissal came when he rejected guidelines which sought to put editorial control of the paper into the hands of Ganguli--an expatriate accountant and management consultant with no journalistic qualification or experience.

While they certainly could not have expected their action to pass quietly without public comment, Ganguli and the other owners and controllers of the 'News' could hardly have expected events to have developed the way they did and as quickly as they did.

Workers at the Daily News immediately demanded the reinstatement of James and began a work to rule to back this demand. This led to the Daily News not being published the following Friday.

Radio phone-in programmes were deluged with telephone calls in support of the stand James had taken. The PNP Youth

Organisation demonstrated outside the Daily News in support of James.

On Saturday night over a thousand people attending a rally held by the Workers Liberation League signed a petition demanding the reinstatement of James at the Daily News and Barbara Gloudon of the Star.

Mrs Gloudon was prematurely sent on leave by the Gleaner Company. Since becoming editor of the Star she attempted to turn it into a family paper dealing with the problems of the ordinary people and had reportedly resisted attempts to use it as a tool of reactionary political propaganda. (Just read some of the editorials which are now appearing in the paper, and some of the serialisations and you will see why she was removed.)

The next move was made by the Press Association. The PAJ held an emergency meeting of its Executive Committee at which the matter was discussed. That same day, Sunday August 28, PAJ members, at the annual general meeting of the Association, passed a resolution which among other things called for the reinstatement of Canute James and Barbara Gloudon. The members also called on the newly elected executive committee to organise a public demonstration.

--MARCH--

On Monday, August 29 hundreds of workers from all sections of the communications media, under a banner bearing the slogan, "TAKE MEDIA OUT OF CAPITALIST CONTROL", marched through Half Way Tree to the Jamaica Daily News where they held a public meeting.

That same evening some 3,000 people marched through the streets of Kingston, stopping at the three privately owned media organisations, the Gleaner, the Daily News and RJR, in support of the Journalists' struggle.

By Wednesday, September 7 media workers were again demonstrating, this time outside the Ministry of Labour where worker representatives and the Daily News management were in a conciliation meeting.

The Minister of Labour has referred the dispute to a Commission of Enquiry

(continued on Page 4)

Mr Smikle is a former Chief Editor at JBC News, now attached to the Sugar Workers Co-operative Council as Public Relations Officer. He is the 2nd Vice President of the Press Association

0000 UNITE (contd)

comprising Chief Justice Mr Kenneth Smith, Ombudsman-designate Mr E.G. Green and Jamaica Development Bank economist, Mr Nathan Richards.

They are to enquire into the dispute and determine whether the professional journalists at the Jamaica Daily News should have control over the editorial policy of the newspaper, or whether this control should repose in the hands of the businessmen who own the newspaper.

No doubt this ruling by the Commission will have precedent-setting significance, But whichever way it goes, journalists must not, and cannot, regard it as the end of the struggle.

==UNITY==

The communications media is too important a factor in national development to be left in the hands of the tiny capitalist elite who have always controlled it.

It is the responsibility of the professional journalist to ensure the dominance of the majority viewpoint. To do this he will have to be involved in a continuous struggle with this elite.

Media workers in all organisations, be they government owned or privately owned must press forward with plans and programmes to introduce worker participation in their workplaces. They must educate their colleagues as to the role the media played in the overthrow of the democratically elected government in Chile in 1973.

==STRENGTHEN UNITY==

But to achieve any of these tasks they must develop and strengthen the unity among media workers. It is only through this unity that they will be able to defeat the capitalist clique who would use the media to further minority interests and turn back the forward movement of the majority.

THE HEARNE ATTACK

The unfortunate attack on columnist John Hearne was condemned by the PAJ in a public statement. The association expressed its "unqualified disapproval of the attack."

The statement went on: "The association states further that such an attack in no way solve the problems of class contradictions in the society which express themselves in journalistic terms, among others.

"The association views the attack as not only unprincipled and senseless but fears that it will no doubt serve to cloud the fundamental issues of the role of the journalist and freedom of the press-issues which are currently engaging the nation's attention and on which the nation must sooner or later decide."

And in its weekly Newsletter, the Union of Journalists and Allied Employees (UJAE), which represents editorial workers at the Gleaner joined other organisations and individuals in condemning the attack.

"While we do not agree with some of the hysterical outbursts which have followed the attack, we are nevertheless concerned at the implications such an incident can have on freedom of expression," the UJAE Newsletter said.

Whither R.J.R.?

A major national media organisation, Radio Jamaica, was this month removed from under the control of its foreign owners, and placed by government into the hands of a new Board of Directors charged with the responsibility of evolving a new ownership structure made up from people-based organisations.

The development is of great importance to the Jamaican people, to the media fraternity and to RJR workers in particular. The Press Association of Jamaica recognised this and did not allow the occasion to pass without a public examination of the implications of the change-over. The PAJ sponsored a public discussion on the issue.

One of the main speakers during this discussion was the chairman of the new RJR Board, journalist Peter Abrahams. He said he hoped to develop within RJR a machinery whereby all workers could contribute to the management and running of the station.

Turning to the role which he sees RJR playing in Jamaica, Mr Abrahams said the station will have to be a forum for all views in the society, with the understanding that these views are presented in proportion with their popular support. While RJR will not become a propaganda arm, he said, it will never be used to subvert the duly elected government.

Other speakers included the Editor of Struggle, Rupert Lewis, who said freedom of the Press did not mean the incitement of the people against the government. JBC Newsman Colin Campbell endorsed government's statement that RJR should become a national democratic institution, but emphasised that the station should not be used as a tool for reactionary purposes.

Several speakers from RJR, including Clifton Segree, contributed to the discussion. Segree said RJR must remain viable and credible, adding that this would depend on how successful certain internal problems were resolved.

COMMENTARY

In a written commentary for PAJ News, RJR journalist Robert 'Bobby' Fray, said while continued viability is very important, there were also other important considerations around the ownership change.

"The changed RJR should devoutly seek to do research on a scientific scale, so that the station may beam programmes which are educational, enlightening and entertaining.

"However, there is no reason why an educational programme should be stuffy, or conversely, why an entertaining programme should be full of trivia.

"The view has been expressed that RJR should be more nationalist and patriotic. If inherent in this plea or advice there is any suggestion that the station is unpatriotic, this must be firmly rejected. However, if the suggestion is intended to urge RJR and perhaps the rest of the media, to do far greater work in the more remote areas of the country, then it would be welcome.

"In the final analysis, whether RJR succeeds will depend on the desire of the workers to achieve the things noted above."

The PAJ intends to make further recommendations on RJR's output and on Worker Participation at the station.

Press Freedom

= A PERSPECTIVE

BY MONICA HAWTHORNE

The unquestioned adoption of pre-conceived dogmas such as Freedom of the Press-- as articulated by the western capitalist nations--has placed some societies at a disadvantage, because this so-called Freedom of the Press has become something of a pre-requisite for the survival of democracy.

There are basically two concepts of press freedom. The first is the authoritarian theory, which developed in the European renaissance period, at a time when responsibility for determining what the society ought to know and believe rested with the "wise elite."

Consistent with this, licences to print were issued to a select group. But with the development of capitalism another theory emerged, the libertarian theory--that anyone should be free to publish what they wish, with the press being a "free market place of ideas."

The notion is that after being exposed to the constant battle of ideas the public would discern the truth. This theory has been tempered by qualifications of "social concern", but basically the concept remain the same--freedom to publish as one pleases.

The idea that the public will determine what's true after being bombarded by contending ideas and views, is quite an assumption.

Quite apart from whether such an assumption has any basis in a country where the large majority of the population is illiterate, can a developing country trying to throw off the ferment of 300 years of slavery and colonialism and re-orientate its society afford the confusion of a free for all jostle?

And, can any developing country afford to divide its energies or encourage counter-productive use of scarce resources such as the mass communications channels?

To talk about press freedom one has to look at the question of who determines what's fit to publish.

But more important is the fact that ACCESS to communications facilities is a privilege that very few Jamaicans have.

Another vital consideration, which make more mockery of talk of freedom of the press, is the reality of the ability advertisers have to determine the content and policy of commercial media institutions because of their objective role in the financial upkeep of the institutions.

Of course the ideal situation would be a society in which there are no class divisions and goals are identical --everyone going in the same direction.

But this is not the case and until it is the press MUST primarily be a vehicle for the expression of the views aspiration and will of the majority. The paramount concern has to be the interest of the majority of the people of this country, and media output in every respect must reflect this concern.

As I see it Freedom of the Press must be seen in this light. And this type of freedom can only be achieved on the basis of ownership by the people through the state and control by the workers.

The reactionary protagonists of Press Freedom while fighting against govt. ownership of the media, would seek to have people believe that press freedom is the god-send of capitalist ownership and control--that the press can't be free under government ownership. Well, the press certainly can't be free if the interpretation of freedom allows any section of the media to undermine

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VIEWPOINT

WHAT DOES FREEDOM OF THE PRESS REALLY MEAN? TWO WEEKS AGO 35 WORKING JOURNALISTS TO STATE THEIR VIEWS.....

COURTNEY BROWN (API): "Some people say freedom of the press is only guaranteed when you have a press not controlled by government, others say government must control if freedom of the press is to be ensured. In my view the above views are far too simplistic and general. The fact of the matter is that in all class societies there exist a class which exploits and dominates. It is only against this background that we can come to a proper understanding of what exactly is freedom of the press.

Both of our daily newspapers are controlled by this small and dominant class in our society. The maxim "who pays the paper calls the tune" is very relevant to this question. Yes, there is freedom of the press; freedom for the small dominant minority who have always owned and controlled it. But not freedom for the vast majority of people in Jamaica. The struggle now is for those who collect and write the news to break the monopoly of those who sit in their air-conditioned offices and decide what is or what is not published. Curtailment of the power of this small dominant clique is the only way to freedom of the press for the masses of Jamaican people. "

DENZIL R. DUNKLEY (JBC) : "As far as I am concerned the press in Jamaica is still free; but I would never pretend for one moment that this freedom is not now threatened. What I am not certain about is whether those people now shouting loudest for "press freedom" would really allow for free expression of the variety of views and opinions now possible should they ever take control of the media. Finally let me add that I could never for one moment accept that the press is free in a situation where all the principal organs of the media are state-owned whether by a right of left wing regime. "

JENNIFER FFRENCH (DAILY NEWS) : "Freedom of the Press must be the unhampered expression of all views within the ambit of decency, fair play and libel. It must allow for dissent. "

PAULETTE MCDONALD (GLENER) : " Press Freedom to me means the publication of the views of everyone in the country, high and low, except for those which are defamatory, slanderous, obscene or libellous. "

GRANVILLE NEWELL (RJR NEWS) : "Access by all to express views and comments on the basis that these views and comments are responsible and in the interest of the majority of the society. "

OWEN JAMES (STAR) : " Freedom of the Press means primarily freedom from government control. Government controlled media is invariably just a propaganda arm of whatever party is in power. However, the media should at all times reflect the views of the majority. "

SALOMIE ROWE (UNEMPLOYED JOURNALIST) : "Freedom of the press means the freedom of the owners and controllers of the media to publish what they believe is in their interest. Therefore, for the media to serve the interests of the majority of the people they (the majority), must own and control it. "

DAVID WEBSTER (DAILY NEWS) : " Freedom of expression by every single person regardless of colour, creed, social status or opinion. "

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS (DAILY NEWS) : "Press freedom exists only when all sectors of the society have access to the media...when the media reflects
(Contd on next page)

Viewpoint (contd)

the views and aspirations of all the people—not just those of the monied minority."

THORAL DeMERCADO (DAILY NEWS): "The ready access and ability of all people to express their views in the interest of the country as a whole."

MIKE JARRETT (DAILY NEWS): "Press freedom is the kind of situation where Jamaicans of every walk of life receive truthful and honest information which allows them to comment on and make up their minds on the issues of the day. In other words, they must get 'the truth, the whole truth and nothing but...'"

JOAN ROSS (JBC NEWS): "Freedom of the press is to a certain extent to do with access. The capitalists have that and so does the government through different levels of control....What about the rest of us?"

STAN REYNOLDS (RJB NEWS): "It seems to me to be the right to publish and broadcast anything that is factual and relevant to the needs of the society."

LEROY THOMPSON (RJB NEWS): "The right of everyone to express his views through the media, providing such views are without malicious intent to hurt the country, are balanced, factual and in the best interest of the people."

ANONYMOUS RJR JOURNALIST: "The press should be free to make public (within the laws of course) facts of importance to the nation. Should also be free to criticise and give credit to government, opposition etc and to make known to the public any corrupt practices."

CURTIS MYRIE (DAILY NEWS): "Liberty in any broad context concerns integrity, discipline, and the license to explore; and yet a practice of restraint. Press freedom should revolve around these issues and concepts and it must strive to publish without becoming overbearing. It must avoid manipulation of a few and should not lead to the revolution of the many. It is a voice and must take into account the value of expression."

HUBERT GRAY (DAILY NEWS): "The responsibility to operate within the constraint of the law of libel and the preservation of the journalist's inherent right to be critically fair in his assessment based on facts and truth."

TONY BECCA (DAILY NEWS): "The scope to write freely one's own views and opinions within the laws of libel without interference from anybody at all whether it be financiers (i.e. top management) or politicians; and the access of the public in general to use the channels of the media to express their opinions."

GLEN McFARLANE (DAILY NEWS): "A forum for every reasonable opinion regardless of whether it is popular or unpopular. The question is: how will we define 'reasonable'?"

C. WEST (A.P.I.): "Freedom of the press must mean the freedom of differing views to be openly expressed through the media. The press in any case must reflect the views and aspirations of the majority of the people. This would need an editor who is able to allow for the expression of these views, even in cases where they may differ from his own, or even the owners of the paper. In the Jamaican experience, the principle of freedom of the press is made to look ridiculous by the rabid anti-government propaganda advanced by the two leading newspapers, parading as the views of the people. This cannot be the views of a people who in December and again in March voted overwhelmingly for the present government. Is this true freedom of the press, or the freedom of the minority to attempt to brainwash the majority of the Jamaican people through their media to lose confidence in their elected government?"

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Viewpoint (contd)

- JENNIFER McDONALD (A.P.I.): "All sections of the press must be prepared to offer objective views on any current event or situation which affects the population of a country. The press cannot be free if only one side of the story is presented. Professional journalists and editors must always struggle to present a balanced overview and allow people to form their own conclusions."
- CARL WINT (DAILY NEWS): "No comment."
- BEVERLY HAMILTON (DAILY NEWS): "Press freedom means access to the media for all sections of the society."
- LIVINGSTON McLAREN (DAILY NEWS): "It simply means freedom for any and every person to hear and read what he wants and to hear and read what anybody else has to say or write---whatever the view, progressive or reactionary."
- RUBY TYSON (DAILY NEWS): "Freedom of expression within the constraints of good taste. Where criticism is concerned it should be constructive criticism and not just criticism to disrupt. Not unlicensed freedom---but freedom within reason."
- PATRICK SMILE: "Freedom of the press must guarantee the right of all shades of opinion to be expressed through the media. This freedom can only be realised if media is free from minority control."
- GARFIELD MYERS (UNEMPLOYED JOURNALIST): "Freedom of the press should mean nothing more or less than the freedom to defend the interests of the majority of the people."
- 'BUMMIE' SMITH (STAR): "That everybody should get the chance to voice their opinions freely as long as they can back it up. No one must not tell journalists what to write."
- BEVERLY NEWELL (JBC NEWS): "A free press should reflect a wide cross section of views in the society and in so doing mirror the aspirations of the people. This is not the case in Jamaica today and it is clear that this will never be attained unless the ownership and management of the media is taken out of the hands of the minority and given to people who are conscious of the needs of the masses. At the same time it should be remembered that freedom must be tempered with a sense of responsibility."
- IOLITA TRACEY (STAR): "Freedom of the press essentially means that the Editor or whoever is in control must be objective, must not be biased or politically-motivated. And he must air all the views of the people, even if he disagrees with some."
- ANONYMOUS GLEANER JOURNALIST: "No press can be free if it has a dominance of minority views, because it is not in the interest of the majority of the people in the society to have a small handful of people in control while the majority are poor and deprived. Therefore the press must be controlled by the working class, the majority or it cannot be considered free."
- MICHAEL RUDDOCK. (JBC NEWS): "Freedom of the press to me means the accessibility to all sections of the media by any individual or organisation which wish to express a particular view. However freedom of the press must also be viewed as a means of expressing the views of the majority which have traditionally been suppressed by the owners of the media. These views must be given priority."
- EVETIE CROSS. (API): "The right to be informed is one of our basic rights. Newspapers must serve the public interest. People must have access to the press and it must reflect their views, hopes and aspirations."
- RAILSTON MCKENZIE (RJR): "Press freedom could be seen as an ideal situation where all individuals and groups are given equal opportunity to express themselves through the public mass media without allowing interest groups and persons overriding privileges."
- MICHAEL CAMPBELL (API): "A free press is one which reflects the political and social aspirations of the majority of the citizens in any country. It must be socially responsible and boost national confidence and uplift the minds of the masses."

* * * * *

Why Free Up The Press?

By Lionel Gayle (Information Officer at
API)

The recent march by media workers from Half Way Tree Square to the Daily News has left one of the slogans stuck in my mind. It is "Free Up The Press". Why is it necessary to free up the Press?

Let us look first at what is meant by freedom of the Mass Media. It is the ownership of the media that is the greatest determinant of how free the media can be within the society.

In the Caribbean, two distinct patterns of ownership have emerged. One is government ownership as in Guyana and St Kitts, and the other is private ownership as in Trinidad and to a certain extent in Jamaica.

In the first place, the media is as free as the laws of the country in which it operates allow it. But its freedom can be further curtailed by those who control editorial policy. The owners and managers are the gates and gate-keepers of editorial content. It simply means, therefore, that they decide whose views are to be expressed in the newspapers and on the radio and television.

The four theories of media systems advanced by Schramm, Siebert and Peterson (Media, Messages and Men) are classic examples under which we can further examine freedom of the mass media. These are Authoritarianism, Libertarianism, Communist and Social Responsibility.

Under the Authoritarian theory, the media are "directive and propagandistic", and are "instruments of control".

Libertarianism is the direct opposite of authoritarianism, and began in England and the American colonies in the 17th century.

The Communist theory was furthered by Karl Marx in the first quarter of the present century. Under this theory, the mass media are part of the State.

The Social Responsibility theory began in the mid-twentieth century and is said to be recognised by the Western World. Under this theory, the emphasis on media freedom is shifted to media responsibility.

When it comes to National development, the question is no longer how free the media are, but how responsible they are in a progressive society. At present, the Libertarian concept of our media system makes it very clear that 'freedom' of the mass media is a one-sided affair.

Such freedom is the powerful weapon of the media owners, who oppose modern political and social changes.

The way forward, therefore, is not the traditional 'media freedom', unless it means freedom to be responsible in a climate of national development.

A PERSPECTIVE OF PRESS

FREEDOM

(Continued from Page 6)

efforts to redress the social inequalities of the society, undermine the confidence of the masses in themselves and in the duly elected government, and more specifically, undermine the Socialist movement and promote the continuation of the existing social and economic relationships of the capitalist system.

REJECTED

"....WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT AS OF TODAY WE WILL NO LONGER CONTRIBUTE TO THE EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE DAILY GLEANER. WE VIEW YOUR REJECTION OF OUR COLUMNS AS A MOCKERY OF PRESS FREEDOM AND AN ACT WHICH GIVES CREDENCE TO THE ACCUSATIONS THAT THE GLEANER'S EDITORIAL POLICY ALLOWS THE VIEWS OF SOME PEOPLE TO BE PUBLISHED WHILE THE VIEWS OF OTHERS ARE SUPPRESSED..."

--DESMOND ALLEN AND HARRIS DIAS IN A
LETTER TO HECTOR WYNTER ON SEPT 3

The editorial on the back page of this issue points to the hypocrisy of some of the people involved in the present debate about "Freedom of the Press". It says the crunch is "between those who speak about freedom of the press and of democracy and mean what they say, and those who speak of freedom of the press and democracy and do not mean what they say."

The rejection of the columns which Harris Dias and Desmond Allen submitted to the Gleaner on the media situation provide perhaps the most clear examples of this hypocrisy.

The opening of the Gleaner's editorial page to the expression of views from working journalists was not a generous gesture made independently by a concerned Gleaner management. It was fought for by the UJAE. The union supported the move even though it recognised that this move was merely a token one on the part of the Gleaner. The UJAE made it clear that it held serious reservations about the whole exercise since there was no guarantee that whenever the workers expressed opinions in these columns which differed in any fundamental way from those held by the owners and controllers of the Gleaner, they would be published. After all, the union pointed out, the final decision rests with the Editor.

= PRINCIPLE =

One of the cardinal principles governing the conduct of any columnist is that his views are his own and not those of the paper for which he writes. Therefore he must be free to express those views as long as they are not in violation of the laws of libel and can be considered as fair comments.

The Gleaner is quick to point out that the views on the Editorial page--except those in the Editorials--are not those of the paper. Hence they justify the unfair personal attacks columnists make on individuals almost daily, by pointing out that these are not the views of the paper.

But when two working journalists write their columns, expressing their views--columns which are not in violation of any law or ethic--they are rejected by a paper which the same week publishes views of a different outlook on the same issue. And that very paper is the first to unblinkingly boast that it seeks and prints all shades of opinion and that it is free.

The hypocrisy goes even further. The very vocal heralds of free expression utter not a word about the issue.

Canute James is right. We really have to examine whether some of those who speak about freedom of the press and democracy really mean what they say, or they are trying to bandoodle us.

Below we publish the columns by Dias and Allen which the free press rejected:

WHAT HARRIS DIAS Wrote

CERTAIN INTERESTING CONCLUSIONS can be drawn from the dismissal of Mr Canute James, editor of the Jamaica Daily News. On the surface his dismissal appears straightforward enough--the end result of a long standing dispute between a newspaper's owner and its editor over the day to day control of editorial content of the paper.

BUT THE ISSUE raises questions about the credibility of the local media and about editorial integrity, and it also raises questions about freedom of the press and about how far privately owned media is willing to go to present views serving the interests of a wide majority of the Jamaican people.

MR JAMES' DISMISSAL it seems to me cannot be viewed only in a narrow way. It has to be looked at as part of developments which are taking place in the wider society. As such it is important that some attempt be made to put the issue in its proper

(contd/p 12)

DIAZ (contd)

perspective in order that a proper understanding of the wider issue can be arrived at. To do this, we have to cast our minds back to some recent happenings, some of which have passed almost unnoticed.

WE MUST REMEMBER a speech made by one prominent politician in the Senate recently in which he said and I quote: "The struggle and battles we face in Jamaica can be won, but they can also be lost. The decision is ours. This nation has one last chance to make that decision and make it they must within the next 18 months. That is the time frame within which I predict that the decision must be made."

WE MUST ALSO REMEMBER another speech made by the president of the Jamaica Manufacturers Association, Mr Winston Mahfood recently, criticising the Prime Minister and announcing that he would be contacting all non-partisan representative institutions in the country to invite them to the first of a series of public meetings to discuss specific developments in the country.

AND WE MUST ALSO cast our minds back to a very recent happening when a group of so-called concerned housewives demonstrated at one of the supermarkets in the Corporate Area over shortages. But in a matter of days they sought and became affiliated to the Jamaica Labour Party and was able to conduct a mass meeting at the State theatre.

WE MUST ALSO REMEMBER the recent escalation of verbal attacks on members of the government, some of the attacks calling for their removal. And then we must ask ourselves, did all this happen to have just happened, or is there a plan?

THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT DECISION to go to the IMF for aid and its acceptance of the terms laid down has brought severe hardships on the people and instead of creating more jobs for the jobless and ensuring that the basic necessities of life are available, the nation is now faced with a shortage of basic necessities. The government's failure to move swiftly in the defense of the people and against those who continue to pressurise them has resulted in more hardships being applied to the masses.

THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY are suffering more and more each day and the plan of certain forces and those who are defending their interests at this time is to play on these hardships and blame them on the government. The media is to play a key role in this plan.

THE DISMISSAL OF MR JAMES, a professional journalist who like most of us came from the ranks and who stoutly defended the right of the broad masses of working people and those who represent their views, has to be seen as part of the general plan. THE ISSUE OF PROFESSIONALISM which the dispute at the Daily News and other developments in the media raise are important; but these developments cannot be viewed narrowly; the attempts to close one section of the print media to views representing the interests of the majority and perhaps ensure that one kind of view dominate is a significant part of the "war" now being waged on the government by certain forces in the country.

THE OUTCOME OF THIS WAR is of interest to all working people because if the forces are successful in their bid to get rid of the government, the new governors, whoever they may be, may not be able to defend their interests of the ruling class in the traditional way and we might be faced with possibly the most terrible kind of government.

AS MEMBERS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION (of which I am a member) marched recently, they marched for integrity and professionalism in the media, and integrity to me means the independence of the journalists from outside forces, and their ability to resist any possible attempts from these forces to influence their work.

I HAVE DRAWN THE CONCLUSIONS, DRAW YOURS.

what DESMOND ALLEN wrote

THE HUNGER AND THIRST FOR CHANGE in our present conditions linger on. Amidst this we are seeing the rebirth of that patriotic spirit which is demanding that the country move out of this standstill and into high gear for progress.

RIGHT NOW THINGS can hardly be worst. The country is taking a direction that leaves a growing fear and social uneasiness fugging at the heart of the country. On that most everyone is agreed. We differ on the reasons and what is behind this apparent national decay, but we all agree that the great squeeze is on.

LET NO ONE BE so naive as to think that the changes which we called for in December could be brought about without accompanying hardships and great dislocation. "If we want good we must run," a Jamaican saying puts it beautifully.

(contd on XTRA PAGE)

ALLEN (contd)

X-TRA PAGE

I believe all well-thinking persons will accept this. What we will not accept is the changes being structured and managed by those who serve minority interests.

WHAT WE WILL not accept is that the government which started out in the direction we approved, should now sit back and allow this minority class that seems to be trying to take this country into their hands, to walk roughshod over it. We did not elect this minority to run this country. Neither did we elect a government to sit by and watch as the progressive people in this country are being turned back in their struggle to improve the lot of our people.

THE DISMISSAL of Canute James--a journalist of utmost professional integrity--last Thursday, which has sparked off a series of demonstrations involving thousands of patriotic Jamaicans, is a clear example of the initiative being adopted by this minority class in a new assault on the patriotic and progressive people of our land.

THE SUDDEN SENDING on leave of Mrs Barbara Gloudon, the beloved and Christian editor of the Star newspaper, is indeed strange. Why strange? Strange because under her guidance the publication of divorce cases of which many complained, has been stopped. Strange because the names of rape victims are no longer published, thus saving them great embarrassment, and this under her guidance.

STRANGE BECAUSE stories such as "There was blood in the room...DONKEY RAVISHED" no longer appear to offend the nation's dignity. Strange because the pictures of naked women no longer appear in the Star to sell women cheap. In short under Mrs Gloudon the Star has changed its image. More emphasis was being placed on the small people of this country. The paper refused to be a political party organ. And all the power to Barbara

IF UNDER HER stewardship sales were falling is it not true that that is because of the economic situation? Isn't Barbara a victim of this new minority initiative? And if this is not so then in whose interest is her forced leave? There are more questions than answers!

THE YOUNG JOURNALISTS supported by those older ones who genuinely want to see Jamaica move ahead to that place where we adequately provide for all our people, took to the streets in demonstration showing solidarity with brother James and Sister Gloudon. But the journalists' struggle is part of the wider struggle to achieve a free Jamaica, to unshackle us from the chains of poverty which bind our very souls.

THE MAJORITY of our people are poor. But we will not suffer ourselves to be subjected for ever to this stark and naked poverty which has handicapped our development. Our mothers and fathers struggled to shake off this yoke. It is not because we were all lazy and lacked initiative that we have remained poor. Indeed some would have us believe that we did not work hard enough. Those who have "made it" are really those who have worked hard, they say. But that's a lie! Not all reached the top by sheer hard work. Some did. Others reached there because the system assisted them. It did not assist the majority of us.

I WATCHED AS MY MOTHER and father worked hard, day and night, trying their hands at many different types of work when they could get it so that their children could get bread to eat, clothes to wear and go to school. They are not poor because they were lazy. In fact if hard work necessarily made people rich, they would be among the richest. I stand my ground on that. I do not want to hear it as general excuse that the poor are poor because they are lazy.

NOW IS TIME THAT the working people be given succor. Our voices are going to be heard. The demonstrations are going to grow. Our petitions are going to increase. Cry! Cry! O Motherland Jamaica! Our chains are hard to bear and something has got to give!

??

WHY WERE THESE TWO COLUMNS REJECTED AND THOSE BY PERKINS, HEARNE AND D'COSTA

PUBLISHED????? *****
IS THAT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS???????

WHAT ROLE HAS THE PRESS PLAYED IN JAMAICA'S DEVELOPMENT?

LOOK OUT
FOR
SPECIAL P.A.J. PUBLICATION
ON HISTORY OF JAMAICAN
MEDIA

* FROM SLAVERY TO TODAY

by BEN BRODIE

COMING SOON!!

MEDIA - MOVEMENTS

The Latin American Federation of Journalists (Felap) has been in regular communication with the PAJ. Sent us a welcome message of support in the Daily News Struggle.

On the recommendation of Felap the Association observed September 8th as the International Day of Journalists, by placing special messages on the radio. The day commemorates the struggle of journalists all over the world, and in particular in Latin America, against oppression and discrimination.

The PAJ Executive held two rounds of talks with Prime Minister Manley, during which the Daily News issue, Radio Jamaica, democracy in the media and other issues were discussed. Plain talking on both sides.

Interviewing has just been concluded for candidates for the Alcan Journalism Scholarship to the Institute of Mass Communications at the UWI.

People are asking what happen to the Seprac Journalism Award. Entries have been submitted several months now, but no word yet.

Much activity at RJR over the election of the worker representatives to the Board. Don't allow the exercise to further divide the workforce in this time when greatest workerx unity is needed at RJR. Remember, the Workers Council is key-- Build it.

JBC newsman Carl Campbell is off to the US to observe newspaper, Radio and Television practice. Expected back in about a month and a half. Balford Henry of Gleaner expected back soon, from a three-month course in England.

JBC workers anxiously awaiting the return of Consie Walters, Head of News, who has been on several weeks leave.

Press Club getting more lively by the night. Could do with a little refurbishing, and maybe a little music?

Working journalists are wondering when the prices at the press club are going to come down to their level.

NOTE: Beginning this issue, 'PAJ NEWS' costs 10 cents.

This small contribution is to help defray the rising expenses being incurred in publishing the newsletter.

#####*****#####

PAJ NEWS STAFF WRITER

"...MANLEY RAVAGED THE OPPOSITION PARTY. HE THREW MOST OF THE TOP LEADERSHIP INTO JAIL. THE MAJORITY OF JAMAICANS ARE NOW FEARFUL. THEY ARE AFRAID TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION. THOSE WHO OPPOSE MANLEY, PERHAPS A MAJORITY, THINK THE U.S. WILL SAVE JAMAICA FROM COMMUNISM...."

The above is from an American conservative newspaper called "The Rising Tide". The headline of the story reads: "Marxist Grip on Jamaica gets Tighter", and it was published on August 15, 1977, only last month.

To many of us this is nothing unusual, nothing fundamentally different from the bad reports Jamaica was given in the foreign press in 1975, 1976 and early 1977.

But this new onslaught is different. This country is now the target of a well organised, very carefully orchestrated plan aimed at forcing the United States government to take action to "prevent Fidel Castro from colonizing the Caribbean island as part of his plan to construct a Marxist axis running from Guyana to Jamaica to Havana".

The plan is being organised by a very influential Jamaican-American group that calls itself "Friends for a Free Jamaica." It is based in Washington D.C., the U.S. capital and since about June or July this year has been actively spearheading a campaign to turn the U.S. Congress, President Jimmy Carter, and the American people against Jamaica.

Prime Minister Manley spoke about the group at the PNP annual conference and Jamaica's ambassador to the United States, Alfred Rattray also made reference to the group while on a visit to the island recently. But the local media downplayed both these statements and made no attempt to get further details and expose to the Jamaican people the actions of this group.

Who are the "Friends for a Free Jamaica?" The group is led by a Jamaican, Dr. Dalbert Williams who is Professor of Political Science at the University of the District of Columbia (formerly Federal City College)

==RONALD REAGAN==

The vice-chairmen are James C. Roberts, (American), Executive Director of the

American Conservative Union. The ACU is an organisation that includes among it's membership people like Barry Goldwater, James Buckley and William Buckley, all arch reactionaries. It's chief spokesman is Ronald Reagan.

Other vice-chairmen are Howard Phillips (American), National Director of the Conservative Caucus; L. Francis Fouchey (American), Secretary of the Council of Inter-American Security and Lee Edwards (American), Secretary of the American Council for World Federation.

Remember the now-famous statement made by Terence Todman, the Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs, to a House sub-committee about Human Rights in Jamaica?

Well, these "friends" of the Jamaican people sent a memo to President Carter, Cyrus Vance, Todman, and members of the House sub-committee on Inter-American affairs to "set the record straight."

It challenged Todman's statement that "Jamaica is typical of the English-speaking Caribbean in it's excellent record on human rights."

According to these "friends" of ours the "factual" record on human rights is, among other things, that between June 1976 and June 1977, over 100 citizens were "executed" by the security forces and a large number of adults and children "were bombed and set on fire by known political supporters of a feared Minister of Manley's cabinet."

==PRESS FREEDOM==

"Friends for a Free Jamaica" in their memo to Carter that the Jamaican press was compelled to subscribe to Article 15 of the Emergency Act (this, is July 1977) "which states that it may not publish criticism of the government even if such publishing is the truth."

"The government has resorted to the oft-used tactic of controlling the import and distribution of newsprint for the print industry, and they are determining supply and demand," says the 'friends' memo.

The efforts of the "Friends for a Free Jamaica" to "alert" the U.S. Congress to development in Jamaica have not been totally

(cont'd on page 15)

FRUITS? (contd)

unsuccessful.

In a report on "Subversion and Terrorism in Latin America", Representative Larry McDonald of Georgia told the House on Wednesday, July 13 that Prime Minister Manley is "a radical Marxist"; that he had "imported scores of Cuban specialists to hold advisory positions in Jamaica's cabinet ministries."

McDonald describes the Rasafarians as "a drug-oriented criminal cult of terrorists" who have been controlled by Manley by his making them into goon squads of the PNP.

Another friend of the "Friends of Jamaica", Congressman Dan Marriott of Utah, wrote a letter to his fellow members of Congress on July 28 that began: "Dear Colleague, Jamaica is no longer an Island paradise." According to Marriott, human rights, individual freedoms and the free enterprise system were being "systematically and relentlessly assaulted and the very roots of Jamaica's democratic system are being seriously threatened."

He said Mrs Carter's statements during her visit to the country indicated sanctions of approval for the Manley government.

"It is my belief," he wrote, "that such favourable gestures and statements can only be due to gross misinformation and understatement of fact."

"This is a matter of grave concern inasmuch as the administration is contemplating \$10/in military assistance to Manley."

Marriott attached to this letter to the congressmen a copy of one he has sent to President Carter (see next page) and asks for signatures in support of the actions he propose.

The article in "The Rising Tide" quotes a "leader of Jamaica's anti-communist political party" who left because of threats against his life.

This leader said there were more than 100,000 Jamaicans living in Cuba, most of whom had emigrated some years ago. Some of them have been imbued with Castriism and sent back to infiltrate Jamaica, according to him.

He says that they are now involved in indoctrination, primarily of youngsters.

This informant of "Rising Tide" says Castriism is combining with black nationalism to drive out whites out of Jamaica.

He says: "Castro is actually directing the Jamaican intelligence service. He plans to use it to change Jamaica from a democratic society into a totalitarian state. He has trained goon squads, known as Home Guard, and Cubans are turning up in important positions everywhere."

==FINANCE CAPITAL==

This unholy alliance between defenders of Jamaican minority interests and American finance capital cannot be taken lightly.

At present, the efforts of the "Friends of Jamaica" are directed at influencing American decision-makers. But, like the Cuban exile groups that developed after the Cuban revolution, this group can blossom into more than a mere lobbying group.

For example, they can develop a terrorist using the many Jamaican lumpen available in New York and Miami to wipe out progressive Jamaicans in the United States and to even direct attacks against Jamaica.

That influential bodies like the American Conservative Union can become involved in this organisation should demonstrate the importance imperialism attaches to Jamaica.

It also shows the extent to which imperialism will go to maintain its dominance over developing countries like Jamaica which make efforts to ever ease the control they have on our economy.

There is no question about the influence Friends of Jamaica have, and about the high-level connections they maintain in the United States.

The media has a duty to inform the Jamaican people about the threats this misnamed group poses for the island's further advancement.

One wonders: with friends like the "Friends of Jamaica", and the American Conservative Union, spokesperson for US finance capital, who needs enemies?

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, A Letter to Jimmy Carter

AFTER CONSIDERABLE study of the developments in Jamaica with regard to human rights, individual freedom, and the free enterprise system, it is evident that there is cause for grave concern. Furthermore, there is a preponderance of evidence of various types of assaults on the previously democratic system, which has been the way of life on that island. The island's democratic system is now seriously threatened.

STATEMENTS RECENTLY made by persons high in your administration, indicating sanctions of approval to questionable improprieties of Michael Manley's government, are most disturbing. These favourable gestures to a malevolent regime can only be due to gross misinformation, ignorance, and dangerous understatement of fact. One very deplorable move at present is the administration's attempt to render \$10 million in military assistance to Manley.

THERE IS OVERRIDING urgency to put an unconditional stop to this illconceived desire to bolster a Marxist regime. Manley is embarked upon a course contrary to the intrinsic interests of the United States and those of peace and freedom. There is need to make provisions whereby all future assistance to Manley is contemplated with extreme caution. We are concerned that military or other forms of assistance may be granted to the Manley regime at the grave expense of United States' policies and principles.

THERE IS MUCH CONCERN here in America and other foreign countries that Manley's government has systematically violated human rights, individual freedoms, and the foundations of the free enterprise system. Since Manley came to power in 1972, the following are some of the measures introduced:

- *MARXIST ADVISORS FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA HAVE ASSISTED MANLEY IN SOCIALISING THE ECONOMY AND ARE EXPLICITLY OR IMPLICITLY ENCRDACHING UPON THE CITIZENS' RIGHTS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY.
- *THE GOVERNMENT HAS THREATENED TO TAKE OVER PRESS AND RADIO IN AN ATTEMPT TO LIMIT TRADITIONAL FREEDOMS EXERCISED BY THESE MEDIA.
- *MAIL TO AND FROM THE UNITED STATES IS BEING OPENED AND CENSORED.
- *GOVERNMENT OWNED COLLECTIVE FARMS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED
- *EDUCATION FROM PRIMARY TO UNIVERSITY LEVELS HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT AND IS NOW BEING ORIENTED TO A SOCIALIST PHILOSOPHY.
- *THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACQUIRED CONTROLLING INTERESTS IN AREAS OF THE ECONOMY PREVIOUSLY HELD BY PRIVATE OWNERSHIP
- *PRESENTLY, MANEUVERS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT TO REWRITE A CONSTITUTION IN THE MOST DIABOLICAL FASHION, WITHOUT APPROPRIATELY SUBMITTING DRAFTS AND INTENDING TO DELETE NUMEROUS SAFEGUARDS AS TO INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, DUE PROCESS, AND LEGISLATIVE BALANCE OF A BICAMERAL PARLIAMENT.
- *THE MANLEY GOVERNMENT ACHIEVED AN IRREVERSIBLE DESTRUCTION OF THE ISLAND'S ECONOMY BY WANTON, RECKLESS AND DELIBERATE INTRODUCTION OF ECONOMIC SOCIALISM AND PERNICIOUS ASSAULT ON PRIVATE SECTOR
- * THERE HAS BEEN WHOLESAL RAP OF THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM BY POLITICAL THUGGERY AND GERRYMANDERING TO DESTROY THE OPPOSITION AND ULTIMATELY THE MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM.

BECAUSE OF THESE and many other malevolent trends in Manley's regime, we request that you review the Administration's policy toward this regime, purposefully rendering all future assistance with the proviso that human rights and the free enterprise system are inviolably enshrined, and set about to monitor any such promises from the Manley Administration.

Sincerely,
Dan Marriott,
Member of Congress

AUDITORS' REPORT

We have examined the annexed Balance Sheet of The Press Club of Jamaica as of the 30th June 1977, and also the annexed Trading and Profit & Loss Account for the year then ended. We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.

We recommend that as far as possible Cash Cheques be avoided, and that Cheques be made payable to persons instead. More details should be placed on Cheque Stubs, and there should be Vouchers authorising each payment. An imprest Petty Cash system should be instituted, and a Voucher obtained for each payment. T.O.U's should be carefully monitored.

The accounts disclose an insolvent state, and it is necessary that serious thought should be given to the future of the Club.

Subject to the foregoing, in our opinion, and to the best of our information, the Balance Sheet and the Trading and Profit & Loss Account present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Club as of the 30th June 1977 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.


McClure & McClure
Chartered Accountants.

17th August 1977.

THE PRESS CLUB OF JAMAICA

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30th JUNE 1977.

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1976</u>
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Accounts Receivable and Prepayments (Less Provision for Doubtful Debts)	1,591	1,973
Stock as valued by Club's Officials	645	1,286
Cash at Bank and in Hand	2,616	609
Total Current Assets	4,852	3,868
Less:		
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Charges	2,545	2,223
	2,307	1,645
National Housing Trust	113	55
Metro Deposit - Jamaica Public Service Co. Ltd.	-	30
	82,420	81,730
<u>REPRESENTED BY:</u>		
Press Association of Jamaica - Loan Capital	16,616	12,366
Deficit	(14,196)	(10,636)
	82,420	81,730

The Auditors' Report is attached.

McClure & McClure
McClure & McClure
 Chartered Accountants.

17th August 1977.

THE PRESS CLUB OF JAMAICA
TRADING AND PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT
FOR YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 1977.

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1976</u>
Sales	16,584	17,047
Cost of Sales	<u>8,318</u>	<u>8,036</u>
Gross Profit	8,266	9,011
Other Income:		
Club Subscriptions	267	366
Miscellaneous	<u>12</u>	<u>283</u>
	<u>279</u>	<u>649</u>
	<u>\$8,545</u>	<u>\$9,660</u>
<u>EXPENSES:</u>		
Accounting	750	750
Bank Charges	28	39
Electricity	1,698	1,380
Entertainment	535	474
General Expenses	519	640
Insurance	57	16
N.I.S.	91	91
Repairs and Maintenance	483	368
Rent	4,000	4,000
Security	520	914
Salaries	2,525	2,575
Stationery	360	235
Telephone	<u>538</u>	<u>738</u>
	<u>\$12,104</u>	<u>\$12,220</u>
Net Loss for the year	(3,559)	(2,560)
Deficit at beginning of the year	<u>(10,637)</u>	<u>(8,076)</u>
Deficit at end of year	<u>(\$14,196)</u>	<u>(\$10,636)</u>

Press Association of Jamaica
22a Old Hope Road,
Kingston 5.

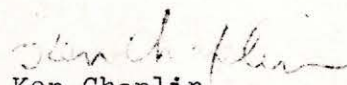
August 10, 1977

Dear Member,

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of the Press Association of Jamaica will be held at Curphy Place, Swallowfield, Kingston 5 on Sunday, August 28, beginning at 11 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Meeting called to order
2. Apologies for absence
3. Welcome by President
4. Minutes of annual general meeting held on August 9, 1976
5. Matters arising
6. Minutes of special general meeting and matters arising
7. Secretary's annual report
8. Treasurer's annual reports.
9. President address
10. Election of Officers
11. Any other business
12. Adjournment.


Ken Chaplin

Secretary

CONSTITUTION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN FEDERATION OF JOURNALISTS

CHAPTER I

Art. 1 The Latin American Federation of Journalists is an organisation representing journalists in the region, created to fight for an authentic freedom of the press in the service of the 'popular majority' and in defence of its members against any form of aggression, repression or restrictions that may be imposed on them. It's comprised of associations, unions, syndicates, 'colleges' and other national organisations of journalists united in the struggle for the defence of the best interests of their countries. It also embraces journalists who are forced to go into exile because of persecution from their governments for maintaining that stance and includes those who approve the Constitution or those who are admitted late.

Art. 2 The most important objectives of the Latin American Federation of Journalists are

(a) The defence of press freedom in the face of control, pressures or influences from transnational and national financial groups and state restrictions serving those interests; the struggle for free access to information and respect for professional secrecy;

the defence of the right of democratic, anti-imperialist, nationalistic and those journalists committed to the people to write in accordance with their conscience and convictions, and to intervene in the orientation of the mass communication media where they work; support for journalists who have become victims of persecution or those who have been jailed for having acted, in the exercise of their professional

duties, in favour of freedom, democracy, justice or the independence of their countries.

In concrete examples of countries where the law suppresses freedom of expression, the Federation will rely on clandestine means of communication operating under repressive conditions for the very same objectives.

(b) The improvement of the working conditions of journalists, the protection of their rights, the respect for professionalism above everything else, the upliftment of their material conditions of life; and to contribute to the adequate 'formation' for future journalists.

(c) The defence of the right of the nation to be quickly told the truth, to denounce the manipulation of information on behalf of national and transnational economic groups lording the mass media; to stimulate the development of organs of information independent of those economic bodies; to promote studies and investigations that will allow for a better knowledge of ways of communication in Latin America and to collaborate with the institutions that are working to this end; and to search for better, wider and more rapid flow of news among Latin America countries and better knowledge in the rest of the world.

(d) To contribute to the strengthening of ties among the countries of Latin America through free and honest information; and similarly, and by the same methods, to help with the maintenance of peace in the world. To establish and tighten bonds of friendship with affiliate organisations that help to strengthen the common fight against colonialism and neocolonialism.

Art. 3 For the success of those aims and objectives, the Latin American Federation of Journalists will co-ordinate the work of all its affiliates, but will respect the autonomy of each one.

CHAPTER 2

Art. 4 National organisations of journalists from Latin American countries that accept the declaration of principles and statutes can join the Latin American Federation of Journalists.

Paragraph 1 In those countries where there's more than one organisation interested in joining, the Federation will make efforts to unify them and can provisionally accept them, but they will have only one delegation in the Federation's Congresses.

Paragraph 2 In those countries where, because of Government measures, there is no national organisation, the Federation will accept individual members and certain rules will beset for them. And if there's an organisation that does not accept the declaration of principles and bye-laws, it can be admitted to the organisation or representative bodies created by journalists in exile who are persecuted for defending the same declaration of principles and bye-laws.

Art. 5. Membership in the Federation can cease by renunciation, suspension or expulsion.

Art. 6 When giving up membership, the Executive Committee of the Federation must be notified for presentation to the next Congress.

Art. 7 An organisation can be expelled for violating the declaration of principles bye-laws, agreements and resolutions of the Congress. Expulsion can only be decided by the Congress on the request of the Latin American Executive Committee or by at least

three member associations. The Executive Committee will notify the party one month before the next Congress so that it can defend itself, if necessary.

Art. 3 When violation is not considered very serious, the Congress has the power to suspend an organisation.

CHAPTER 3

Art 9 The Federation is composed of

- (a) The Congress
- (b) Presidium
- (b) The Executive Committee
- (d) The Secretariat

Art 10 The Congress is the highest authority in the Federation. It will meet every three years and will comprise delegations from national member organisations. An extraordinary general meeting can be called on the initiatives of the Executive Committee or on the request of fifty-one percent of its members.

Art. 11 The Congress has the power to

- (a) Approve the declaration of principles.
- (b) Approve and modify the bye-laws and rules of the Federation.
- (c) Dictate the general guidelines of the Federation for a set period and to orientate the actions of member organisations.
- (d) Elect the administrative bodies of the Federation.
- (e) Admit new members and to impose whatever limitations it sees fit.
- (f) Approve or disapprove of what the administrative bodies may say.
- (g) Approve or disapprove of the finances; establish the budget and amount for each organisation.

- (h) Decide on the headquarters for the Secretariat and the Congress.
- (i) Approve agreements and regulations.

Art. 12 The Executive Committee is the highest authority of the Federation between Congresses. It will have a meeting twice during this period and of an extraordinary nature on the request of fifty-one percent of its members. The Executive Committee comprises the members of the presidency and the secretariat, and the presidents and secretary generals of member organisations or those formally chosen by them.

Art. 13 Work of the Committee

- (a) Look about the work of the Secretariat, receive information on its activities and take a decision on them.
- (b) Approve the suspension of members
- (c) Get information from the Secretariat on new members and plans for expulsion and bring the Congress up to date.
- (d) Make preparations for the Federation's Congresses, name the Organising Committee, fix and approve a date, time, place and rules.
- (e) Approve or disapprove of the information from the Secretariat between Congress.

Art. 14 The Presidency is the directive organ of the Executive Committee and election takes place every three years. It will meet at least twice a year or when called to do so by the Secretariat or by fifty-one percent of its members. It has a president, a first vice-president and seven vice-presidents from different

countries. The vice-presidents also have their respective 'understudies'. The members of the Presidium and the 'understudies' are individually elected by the Congress.

Art. 15 The Work of the Presidium

- (a) To direct the activities of the Federation in accordance with the declaration of principles, the bye-laws, agreements and resolutions of the Congress and the Executive Committee.
- (b) Orient the actions of member organisations in the work agreed on by the Congress or the Executive Committee.
- (c) Be always on the look-out for violations of freedom of the press, free access to information and examples of persecution of journalists and their organisations.
- (d) Give information on its work together with the Secretariat, before the Executive Committee and the Congress.
- (e) Call a meeting of the Executive and fix a date, place and subject.

Art. 16 The President has the authority of the Federation and is responsible for the work of the Presidium.

Art. 17 The Secretariat is the organ of 'permanent direction' and is responsible for carrying out the guidelines and resolutions of the Congress. It's elected by the Congress and comprises a Secretary General and four

Secretaries nominally elected for three years, and coming from different countries

Art. 18. Work of the Secretary General

- (a) Direct the general tasks of the Federation
- (b) Be on the look-out for the fulfilment of recommendations made by the directive organs of the Federation.
- (c) Co-ordinate the work of the Secretariat.
- (d) It occupies the highest chair in the executive body of the Federation.

Art. 19 Work of the Secretariat

- (a) Carry out the directions of the various bodies in the Federation.
- (b) Decide on the obligations and role of each secretary.
- (c) Compile the necessary information, persecution of journalists and their organisations.
- (d) Maintain permanent contact with member organisations.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES OF THE LATIN AMERICAN FEDERATION OF JOURNALISTS

(PAGE 1)

The Latin American Federation of Journalists, formed in Mexico City on the 7th of June, 1976, is a classicist body grouping together organisations of journalists and of other workers in the field of communication on the Continent.

For the fulfilment of its aims and objectives, the following general principles have been adopted

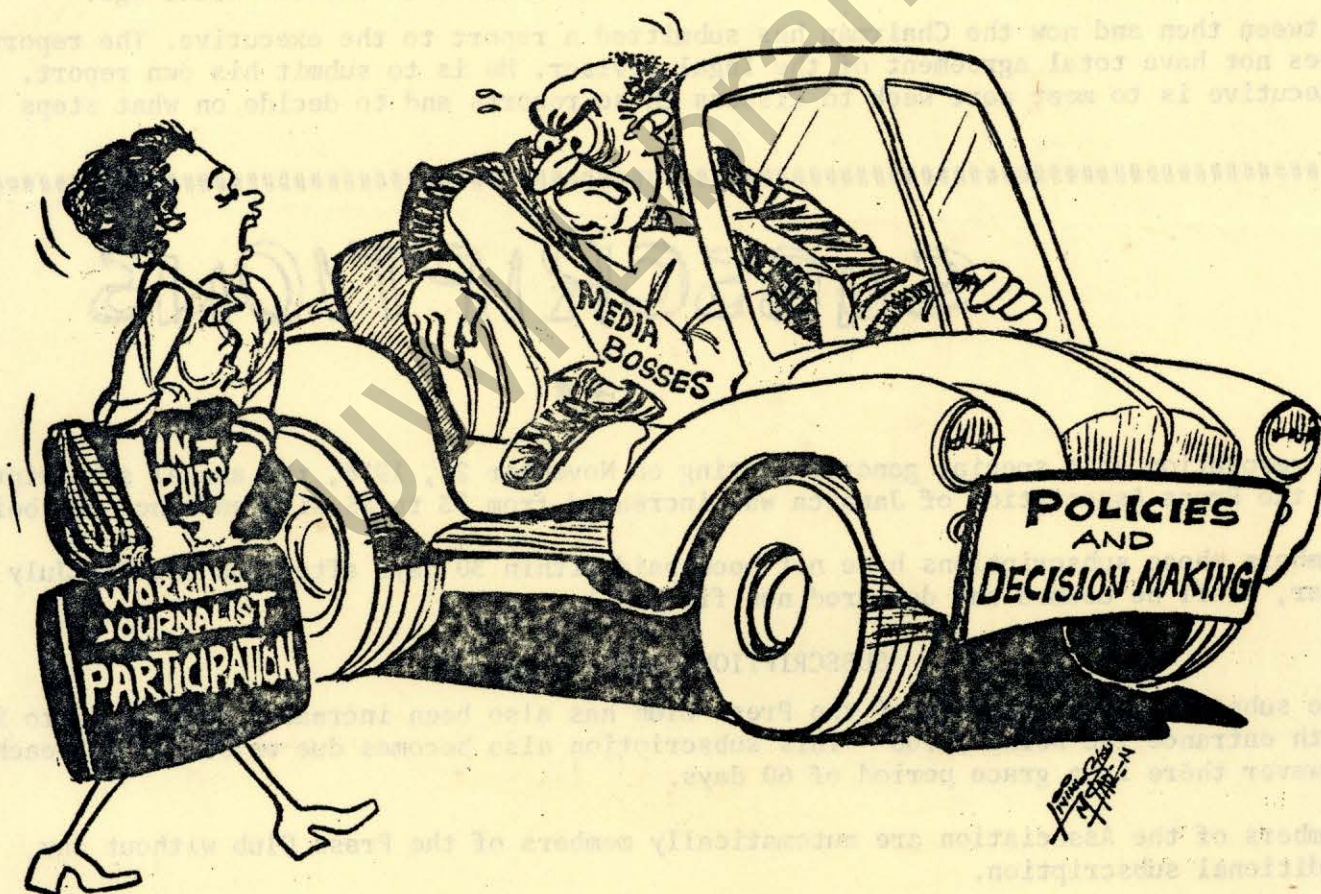
1. The Latin American Federation of Journalists is an anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist, popular and democratic organisation which embraces revolutionary methods in order to achieve its objectives.
2. It recognises the continental characteristics of the struggle of the various nations against oppression and maintains that only from that fight the great Latin American fatherland will emerge.
3. It has a common cause with the popular, democratic and revolutionary organisations in their struggle for political, social, economic and cultural revindications of the countries of Latin America. Therefore, let us Latin American journalists declare that we will always be united with the 'working-class' press, the proletarian and revolutionary press, which will best reflect the interest of our countries.
4. It hoists up the banners for the liberation of the countries of Latin America and narrows the gap in the fight against transnational corporations and the domination of North American imperialism.
5. It's united with the nations and governments of our America, which in the free exercise of their sovereign rights, defend their countries' resources against any threat from the United States and other capitalist powers; it also allows us to support other Third World countries which are struggling for the same objectives.
6. We reject any ideological penetration that is spread through the mass media on behalf of the reactionary and pro-imperialist sectors in our countries.
7. We affirm our decision to fight for professional revindications that will result in better living and working conditions and also for the defence of our professional and union rights.

Over...

- 8/ Its movements will be directed towards the path of unity for all members of the working class, rural folk and the popular and revolutionary forces, and also all workers in the field of communication, especially its own members.
9. Ours is the fundamental principle of international solidarity with the working class.
10. We see Freedom of the Press as the fight of our people to be truly informed and to express opinions without restrictions other than those imposed by the same interests in the country.
11. Consequently, we are fighting for a change of ownership of mass communication in order to rescue them from the hands of the ruling class serving imperialist interests that are wielding their power over the countries of Latin America.
12. We declare that the journalist has a political and ideological responsibility by nature of his profession, which influences the conscience of the masses, and there's no 'turning back' in that responsibility which is the essence of his role in the society.
13. We affirm that cultural and educational formation must be oriented towards a critical, investigative and liberal mind, in order to assist in the nation's struggles; therefore, our work must be geared towards the interest of the 'national majority'.
14. We declare ourselves anti-facists and we are opposed to all forms of terrorism oppressing our people.
15. We seek to defend our rights and human dignity and we support those who favour social changes within the specific ambits of each country.
16. Finally, the Latin American Federation of Journalists solemnly declares that it's neither, nor will ever be, divorced from the interests of the countries in our Continent.

PA NEWS

Monthly organ of the Press Association of Jamaica
JUNE 1977



I'M COMING, MOVE OVER!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Over two months ago the Press Association was requested by Minister D.K. Duncan and Arnold Bertram to take action against the Daily Gleaner for carrying misleading reports about them in the column "Listening Post".

A sub-committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Abrahams was set up by the Executive Committee to investigate the matter and to report back to the Executive of their findings. On the basis of that report, the Executive, on behalf of the Association, would take the appropriate action against the Gleaner.

What has happened since then? The sub-committee carried out some investigations and made two attempts at a meeting with the ministers and a representative from the Gleaner. The first meeting fell through as one minister was out of the country, one was unavoidably absent and the Gleaner refused to participate in the discussions. The Gleaner's reasoning is that the complaint from the ministers should rightly be submitted to the Caribbean Press Council and not to the Press Association of Jamaica. They would therefore participate in no PAJ initiated discussion on the matter.

The Press Association communicated its dissatisfaction on their position to the Gleaner, asked them to reconsider and invited them to yet another meeting. This meeting was held without the Gleaner. Both ministers attended and the Gleaner once more put forward their original position, refusing to deal with the Press Association. This was two weeks ago.

Between then and now the Chairman has submitted a report to the executive. The report however does not have total agreement of the legal advisor. He is to submit his own report. The executive is to meet next week to discuss these reports and to decide on what steps to take.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

2A

By resolution at a special general meeting on November 28, 1976, the annual subscription to the Press Association of Jamaica was increased from \$3 to \$5 with entrance fee being \$2.

Members whose subscriptions have not been paid within 30 days after due date on July 1 each year, shall be deemed and declared non financial.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

The subscription of members of the Press Club has also been increased from \$6.30 to \$10 with entrance fee being \$4.00. This subscription also becomes due on July 1, of each year. However there is a grace period of 60 days.

Members of the Association are automatically members of the Press Club without any additional subscription.

SUPPORT THE PRESS CLUB

WORKER PARTICIPATION NOW!!!

~ by PATRICK SMIKLE ~

Democratisation is essential if the media is to play a meaningful role in the struggle^{of} the lot of the masses of the Jamaican people. If the media is to reflect the aspirations of the people and the realities within the society, it must draw on the experience of workers who are in day to day contact with the people. 'Office bound' managers and chief editors are not the repositories of all wisdom. The decision making base must be broadened.

Serious starts have already been made by most of the media-houses to introduce worker participation, as a means of broadening this base of decision making.

The struggle for democratisation of the media is most advanced at the JBC and API, two institutions over which Government has control. Both these institutions have functioning staff associations or worker participation committees which meet regularly as a body, and with the general staff. Both with the approval of the majority of the staff, drafted and are now submitting to government, proposals for greater worker involvement in the policy making and day to day operations.

At Radio Jamaica, a committee has been elected by the staff to draft worker participation proposals. The committee has representatives from all areas and departments of RJR and has been meeting regularly.

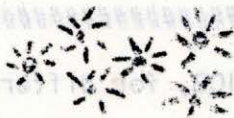
At the Gleaner Company the unions are spearheading the drive toward democratisation and the company's threat to lay off workers is generating the unity for the workers to move forward.

The Press Association represents a significant section of the workers in all these organisations - many of the very workers who are now struggling for worker participation. The PAJ cannot continue to play a passive role, but must now become actively involved in assisting and co-ordinating this very important struggle.

At the same time media workers, whether they are employed in the private or the public media, must realise that democratisation is not going to be handed to them. It is something they will have to continue struggling for. No elite has ever handed over power willingly and the tiny clique of capitalists and bureaucrats who now own and control the media will be no exception.

Workers will have to struggle to get government to change the 'Company Law' which now prevent the workers from sitting on boards. They will have to struggle for representation on the proposed National Media Council. They will have to struggle against the tokenism which some media managers will attempt to use as a substitute for real democratisation.

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INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

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How long or how hard a struggle it is will depend on the unity and consciousness of the workers in the media. Those who have been selected to serve the workers as union delegates must become part of the movement and must seek to bring the paid trade union representatives into the struggle.

Workers who are members of the other organisations (like the PAJ) must bring these organisations into the struggle and ensure that they represent the interests of the majority of workers.

And finally, the workers in the different media institutions must exchange views and advice on tactics and strategy. The media must belong to the people and it is only through democratisation that this will be realised.

western developed world, while placing some emphasis on Caribbean stories because of the Cana connection.

At least two meetings dealing with the issue of news flow took place during the last month, at which Jamaican newsmen were present. The first was an Alacode seminar in Trinidad, attended by Granville Newell of RJR and Harris Dias of the Gleaner on behalf of the PAJ. The other meeting was an international Broadcast News Workshop, held last week in Cairo, Egypt. JBC's Head of News, Consie Walters represented the JBC. Excerpts from reports out of these two meetings are published overleaf.

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Colin Campbell of JBC News returned from Australia this month after attending a four month television production course with the International Training Institute of Australia. He says the trip 'down under' was 'way out'! He enjoyed it though and has come back with a lot of ideas.

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Fitzroy "Internash" Nation is off to Washington - not to another course but on vacation this time. Says he's going to the "White House" and all.

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The KSAC has called for the Gleaner to be placed under the control of the workers. The call has been supported by the PNP Youth organisation.

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Three announcers have resigned from JCB, for different reasons. Beverly Cole, Lloyd Richardson and John Wakeling. Contrary to reports in a column of ill repute, ET is still at JBC, alive and kicking.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWSFLOW AND THE THIRD WORLD

Working journalists, the public at large and the international community of developing nations are all becoming increasingly conscious of the problems caused by the control of the international news flow by the four major news agencies based in the Western World.

The matter has been getting serious attention from as early as August last year, when the summit meeting of Non-Aligned countries in Sri Lanka decided to form a Third World Newspool, as a start to attacking the problem. At this meeting the developing countries protested that the dominance of these agencies (The Associated Press, Reuters, United Press International and Agence France-Presse) limited the flow of information and imposed western values on most of what poor countries find out about themselves.

The news pool is a method of swapping information between countries. There is no single centre, and any of the members of the pool can begin to operate its own pool arrangements. Thus if Jamaica decided to start a pool, it would send a selection of its copy to all other member countries and in exchange receive material from them. But there would have to be a basic agreement first.

In the first instance, the idea is not to replace the existing agencies, but the logical step therefrom is the formation of the grouping's own agency.

As can be expected, the Established western agencies have been very critical of the idea, saying that it is a means to control what is written about countries etc. It has almost been an hysteria, born out of a feeling that their economic interest and viewpoint are threatened.

An interesting development here in Jamaica is that the Associated Press, one of the big agencies, has been dropped by all news organisations including the Gleaner, JBC, RJR and The Daily News. The reason has been in some cases financial, but it is an interesting development nonetheless.

At the same time, several of the local news organisations have been using co copy from Prensa Latina, the Latin American News Agency based in Cuba (a Third World Country). The other source of international news still being used is Reuter-Canal, which adequately represents the outlook of the

ALACODE CONFERENCE

BY GAILLENHILL NEWELL

On the morning of May 27, 1977, the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Trinidad and Tobago, John Donaldson, officially opened in Port-of-Spain, a week-end Training Course on Journalism and Development.

Taking part in the seminar were journalists from Jamaica, Curacao, Surinam, Guyana, Barbados, Colombia, England and Trinidad. It was sponsored by ALACODE.

ALACODE's full name is the Latin American Association of Development Journalists. It is a non-profit private body based in Colombia and is integrated by National Chapters bringing together professional journalists involved in the problems of social, political and economic development of Latin America and the Caribbean countries.

Perhaps the most important Session was on Saturday May 29, when Rafael Santos Calderon, Editor of the daily newspaper, El Tiempo of Bogota, Colombia, presented a paper on the flow of news in the world.

Calderon pointed out that the flow of news is virtually controlled by the international news agencies, AP, UPI, Reuters and AFP. "In fact, the United States control more than 65 percent of news flow in the world", Calderon said.

He said the various news agencies, films, photographs and comic books all pushing the views and actions of the industrialised world entrapped the people of the Third World into a system of accepting the way of the industrialised world.

The news agencies, Calderon said, determined what was news and what should be transmitted throughout the world. To carry out this distortion, he said, they sometimes over-evaluated facts which were not important. "They bunch up isolated facts and presented them as a whole."

The Colombian editor said also that the international news agencies were sometimes silent on matters of great importance to the Third World. For an example, he pointed out that these agencies reported nothing about the re-development of Vietnam after the war with America.

He said that these agencies were interested only in the stereotype stories from the Third World ... stories about natural disaster, coups, and "revolutions". But Calderon pointed out that we in the Third World should not forget that the actions of the international news agencies were in concert with those of the trans-national corporations, and that the agencies fully supported the trans-nationals in their exploitation of the Third World.

He spoke also about the inertia on the part of editors in the region. These editors, he said, did not seek to publish news about the developments in our own countries. "By and large, Calderon said, "we have tended to ignore each other". He made reference to lack of publicity in the region for Surinam's independence last year, stating that only one newspaper in Latin America had given the issue full treatment.

After Calderon's detailed and soul searching presentation, the seminar decided that we had to look at ways to improve the flow of intra-regional information and cut down the imbalance created by the agencies like PA, UPI and Reuters.

So on the last day of the seminar (Sunday May 29) we decided that for a start, we could send each other news clippings on the very important developments in our countries. The delegates would act as correspondent in providing this service. The first batch of clippings will be sent to the ALACODE office in Bogota on June 15 for distribution to the various countries involved. Another batch will be sent off on June 30 as the idea is to send these clippings fortnightly. This way we hope to keep each other informed.

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GLEANER LAYOFFS THREAT

by BEN BRODIE

Developments at the Gleaner Company - oldest and largest media house in Jamaica, serves to expose two of the many myths that journalists have been living with throughout the ages.

Myth No. 1. Journalists are a 'special' group of workers within the media and as such must isolate themselves from other categories of workers in and outside the media.

At press time the Gleaner Company Limited was still aiming at laying off 120 workers from their operations. The Company's only stipulations so far is that the principle of 'last come, first go' will be observed. This might have come as a rude awakening to those journalists who swallowed the myth and saw themselves as a group separate from the working class in general.

Myth No. 2. Developments in the wider society are simply matters to be reported or commented on by journalists.

In other words Journalists have no part in the struggle of the Jamaican people. They must remain aloof and 'objective.' The validity of the Gleaner's claim that devaluation is the main factor which has led to its decision to layoff workers has not been ascertained. But the point is that it has been advanced as the reason.

Again those who thought that devaluation and matters like these are 'not their business' must have been shocked to find out how much their business it is. The happenings at the Gleaner Company must be of interest to all media workers. The struggle by the workers there to avert layoffs is the business of the media workers and must be pursued with as much vigor as a swing at the Press Club and as much seriousness as discussions on democratisation in the media.

BEN BRODIE

GLEANER WORKFORCE PROTESTS EDITORIAL POLICY

The entire unionised workforce at the Gleaner have called on the Company's Board of Directors to correct what they term the vindictive and unprofessional trend now evident in the papers editorial policy.

In a letter to the Chairman of the Board, the workers, represented by the BITU, the UJAE and UTSAP, said the current handling of editorial policy was the main cause of the frequent attacks being directed at the newspaper and its workers. The workers also pointed out that this adverse trend in editorial policy was reducing the credibility and status of the newspaper in the society.

The workers have also written to the Prime Minister, asking for a clarification of the Government's stand regarding the Gleaner work-body as distinct from the management. The letter expressed concern at recent utterances by individuals within or close to Government, and expressed the desire to open dialogue with government on the matter.

Submit an article for PAJ NEWS - Today!

NEW UWI

DEGREE COURSE IN JOURNALISM

The University of the West Indies is to offer a degree course in communications starting in the 1977/78 academic year. It is expected that the first students in this programme will graduate at the end of the 1978/79 academic year.

Plans for this course were disclosed recently by the Acting Director of the Caribbean Institute of Mass Communications, Dr. Everrod Hosein, in an interview with PAJ News.

The degree programme is being offered by the Faculty of Arts and General Studies and comprises three options. Students will be able to read for a bachelor degree in Communication with Social Sciences, Communications with Language and Literature or Communications with Social Sciences, Language and Literature.

In each option five communications courses are being offered with three of these being compulsory. The courses are Communications Principles, Introduction to Communication Techniques, Communication and Society, Communication Analysis and Planning, and Advanced Communication Techniques.

It is expected that these new options will lead to a review of the three year old Mass Communications Programme now being offered by the Caribbean Institute of Mass Communications at Mona. However, Dr. Hosein emphasised that this review would not change the admission regulations which now favour people with communications experience including those who do not have the normal entry requirements of the U.W.I.

At the same time PAJ News understands that persons who already hold the UWI Mass Communications Diploma can apply for exemption from Use of English and Communications Principles, both first year courses. Some graduates of the Institute of Mass Communications who have entered the University to read for degrees in the Faculty of Arts and General Studies or the Faculty of Social Science have applied for and obtained exemption from Use of English. The thinking of the University is that the course, Communications Skills, which is now offered at the Institute, covers the subjects involved in Use of English. It is expected that the same thinking will apply with regard to Communications Skills which is also offered at the Institute.

Meanwhile, the Faculty of Arts and General Studies is now examining proposals for a Certificate Course in Communications to be offered through the Department of Extra Mural Studies. This course will be offered in the evenings and will be geared particularly for persons working in communications organizations but who are not directly involved in any communications work. For example a secretary who wants to move from secretarial duties into the editorial department of her workplace would be able to pursue this course.

Students will be able to complete the programme in one to four years depending on past experience, qualifications and aptitude.

Information on these developments can be obtained at the Institute of Mass Communications, U.W.I. Mona.

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VIEWPOINT

ON THE TRUSTEES ISSUE.....

It was a mess from the beginning to have the funds of the Association reposed in the hands of any two people for life. This is particularly true, as to my knowledge, it is not in the constitution of the PAJ.

Byron Henry JBC

"Most unfortunate. Must be sorted out as soon as humanly possible",

C.J. Daily News

"It is a total disgrace. After so many years the present executive should have access to the money because there is a lot of improvements to be done in the Press Association and they need cash. Something has to be done about the whole matter."

H.J. Daily News

I believe in the present system where the Trustees are separate from the Executive, as long as the Trustees are available to give approval. The Trustees are only guardians of the funds. You need them for life to prevent the trouble of frequent changes in names at the Bank when the executive changes each year. Yes, I believe all this despite the fact that it is not in the constitution of the PAJ.

Emsley Pearson JBC

I don't agree with the principal. It is totally wrong to have Trustees other than the elected representatives.

Michael Ruddock JBC

Money sitting down doing nothing is being counter-productive, especially when there is an acute need for training within the profession,".

J.F. Daily News

It is a joke business. I can't understand how an Association can have an executive and it can't touch the money of the association. Something must be done about it immediately.

L.M. Daily News

Not only should this money be used to benefit the Press Association members, it is important that whatever resources we have be put to more productive use than merely drawing interest in a bank - particularly in our present financial situation. Our legal advisor will have to tell us how we can do this.

S.M. Daily News

The Editor Sir,

I am forced to write about the price of drinks at the Press Club.

Just imagine, sixty cents for one tot of Appleton! I wouldn't even bother to scare members by quoting the other prices. But Mr. Editor, if ordinary working journalists are expected to relax at the Press Club, something has to be done about these drinks prices. I am sure that at one time the prices at the Club were among the lowest in town. Why the increase all of a sudden. If its an attempt to increase the Press Club revenue, the, like the telephone tax it will have a counter-productive effect.

<DUBE AT PUBLIC FORUM>

In a rap with PAJ members and other interested persons Zimbabwean Joseph Dube who is the Patriotic Front representative to the Caribbean said that two-thirds of the African lands of Zimbabwe have now been liberated. He explained that the white settlers divided Zimbabwe almost evenly with 45 million acres reserved for 270,000 whites and another 45 million reserved for Africans, coloured and Indians. It is two-thirds of this which is now controlled by Zimbabwe freedom fighters. He was speaking during a PAJ Rap Session at the Press Club early June.

Mr. Dube explained that his party, the Patriotic Front is made up of two former parties, the Zimbabwe African Nationalist Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU).

ZAPU he said originated from the trade union movement and was headed by Joshua Nkomo. ZANU on the other hand had no trade union roots. The first decision to unite came in 1971 after the British-Rhodesian proposals made by the Pearce Commission. At that time all the leaders were in jail. It was then decided to choose a leader who had no political roots to explain the proposals to the people. Out of this came the African Nationalist Council (ANC) and Rev. Abel Muzorewa was chosen to do this. In a referendum the people rejected the proposals but the ANC continued.

The leaders Nkomo, Sithole, Mugabe were released in 1974 and decided to form a political alliance to work with the military alliance which had by then joined in armed struggle.

Mr. Dube's explanation came in answer to questions about the apparent disunity of the liberation movement and possible leadership infighting once Zimbabwe is free.

The Patriotic Front is a socialist party fighting against colonialism, racism and capitalism. It is made up of different people-based movements - trade unions, women's youth and farmers. Representatives from these make up the People's Congress.

White people are included in the movement as he said they are not fighting a racialist war. He said, however, because of the composition of the party it would be very hard for whites to assume leadership though this is possible.

As different areas are freed, he said, the people are given political education while being trained in guerilla warfare.

Mr. Dube has ruled out any role for Americans in deciding Zimbabwe's future. Negotiations can take place only through Britain and the Patriotic Front and not with the white settler regime represented by Ian Smith. His party is asking Britain to negotiate with the African people just as it did in other colonies when independence was being discussed. As an interim measure, the party would accept a council of black ministers under a British resident commissioner, before final black majority rule.

REVERLY HAMILTON

LATE... LATE LATE LATE LATE LATE LATE LATE LATE LATE LATE LATE LATE

Bettram and Duncan

COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE CONDEMNS "LISTENING POST"

The Executive Committee of the Press Association has accepted the report of a special committee set up three months ago to investigate complaints against the Daily Gleaner by the Minister of National Mobilisation, Dr. D.K. Duncan and the Minister of Information and Culture, Mr. Arnold Bettram.

The Association wishes to make a public condemnation of the Gleaner for the irresponsible brand of journalism shown in the "Listening Post" article. While the Association believes in and fights to preserve the right of any journalist or any member of the media to fearlessly ferret out and publish the truth, it must disapprove of any situation where the time-honoured practice of proper checks to ascertain facts before rushing to print, is abandoned.

The Association calls on the Gleaner to take immediate steps to deal with the anonymous author of "Listening Post" who wrote the offending misleading article, and for the Gleaner to ensure that a greater level of responsibility is shown in what it puts out. While the Association fights for the freedom of the press, irresponsible action as shown by this issue, can only make defence of the freedom of the press more difficult. Indeed it puts the credibility of the profession at stake. Freedom of the press demands a corresponding responsibility.

The Association regrets the Gleaner's refusal to participate in the Committee's hearings. The Association cannot accept the Gleaner's stand that the Caribbean Press Council should have dealt with this issue. The Association is not an affiliate of the Council, and is therefore not bound, nor obliged to adhere to its memorandum of Operations of Procedures.

The Association as that body representing a large section of media workers strongly feels that it has the jurisdiction and is competent to deal with all issues involving journalists, and all matters affecting the media in Jamaica, and will continue to do so.

CANUTE SPEAKS ON THE MEDIA

PAJ President, Canute James says Jamaica is "very, very far away" from achieving freedom of the press and has identified a number of problems which will have to be dealt with before the news media can reach this goal.

In a recent address to members of the Downtown Kingston Kiwanis Club he listed some of the problems as, the high rate of illiteracy and subsequent ignorance in the society, the commercial structure of the media, limited training opportunities for journalists and the laws within which the media has to operate.

He said there was no freedom of the press for that "significant section of the society" who because of illiteracy "cannot take part in what should be a free flow and exchange of ideas".

"The media in Jamaica today is free only for those of us who possess the ability to comprehend what is written, read and heard," the PAJ President said. "We cannot speak of free press when a significant section of the society is, through ignorance, locked out from exercising this freedom."

Dealing with the structure of the press, Mr. James said it was important for media personnel and for the society at large to be aware of the direct or indirect effects that commercial considerations could have on media content.

He then spoke of the "limited progress" made by the Press Association in obtaining opportunities for higher training for journalists, charging that until quite recently, "there was some reluctance on the part of media managers to encourage the formal training of media workers.

This had led to a situation where those who had no first hand knowledge of the profession were allowed to "direct the professional operations of those who really know what they are about." The professional was being treated as nothing more than a work *horse*."

On the question of the laws governing the operations of the news media, the PAJ President said this "body of legislation ... at times deters the presentation of information."

He emphasised that he was talking about an "ideal" freedom of the press which could not be achieved overnight, but said it was important that the profession and the society at large bear these factors in mind.

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TRINIDAD MEETING cont..FROM Page 6

But we plan to take it further in due course by writing and sending feature articles instead of clippings. The seminar felt that feature articles would be more interpretive and give a clearer picture of what was going on in a particular country. We are determined to lessen our dependence on the international news agencies.

So the seminar ended with each delegate feeling that we had taken an honest look at certain issues which need to be dealt with and that we had made start in the right direction. We also found it most pleasing that we had finally come together as **Caribbean** and Latin American journalists to talk about some of the problems the region is experiencing. Not the least, we also set up personal contacts which are bound to prove useful in the future.

On behalf of Harris Dias of the Daily Gleaner, I would like to thank ALACODE and the Press Association of Jamaica for affording us the opportunity to attend what turned out to be a very useful meeting of the minds of Caribbean and Latin American journalists.

LAFJ MEETS = JAMAICA MISSING

The Executive Committee and Secretariat of the Latin American Federation of Journalists, LAFJ, held its first meeting this month, one year after the organisation was founded.

The LAFJ, meeting was held in Mexico City, and was attended by representatives from some twenty countries. The PAJ became a member of the grouping after a controversial decision by the majority of the local organisations members. However, we had no representative at this latest meeting. (Please see note below).

After the meeting the Secretariat issued a document, which re-affirmed the grouping's commitment to promoting the interest of Latin American journalists.

The Federation also announced its agreement to participate in the World celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Socialists Revolution in the Soviet Union, and its support for the holding of the Eleventh Festival of Youth and Students in Havana Cuba next year.

According to reports from Prensa Latina the Federation also passed a resolution condemning the repression suffered by thousands of journalists in Latin America. It said professionals were being repressed in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Haiti, Paraguay, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Brazil.

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WHY WE WERE NOT THERE

Jamaica was not represented at the first anniversary meeting of the Latin American Federation of Journalists held in Mexico from June 6 - 10 because of a combination of circumstances. Jamaica is a member of the Federation.

Air Jamaica informed PAJ's President, Canute James that a ticket in his name had been received from Mexico City on June 4. The ticket stipulated that James should travel to Mexico City on June 6.

Canute reckoned that it was from the Federation, but he was unable to go because of other commitments.

George Lee was contacted and his name was substituted for James but Air Jamaica had to get permission from Mexican travel agents to make the change.

Meantime Ken cabled the Federation that President James could not make the trip, but 2nd Vice President Lee would represent the PAJ.

The official letter of invitation addressed to James at the Press Association's address, 22A Old Hope Road was received on June 5.

George was all prepared to travel on June 6, but then there was a sudden twist. The Travel Agency through which the switch had to be made was on strike and Air Jamaica could not inform them.

When clearance came on June 8 for Lee to Travel, it was too late, and so Jamaica was not represented.

PAPER ON ANONYMITY AND ITS RESPONSIBILITIES

The present case under discussion by the Press Association, focusses on a number of important principles which involve the whole question of the freedom of the press. To comprehend the significance of these to the present it is necessary to look at the past.

Except for the odd gossip columnist in the entertainment world, the practice of the anonymous "reporter" is almost unknown in North America. In the case of gossip columnists, pseudonyms were used as a means of hiding the identity of a person, usually a member of the Social Register or similar elite grouping, whose access to the gossip and small talk of his group might be jeopardised by exposure of identity. Gossip in this case was usually not malicious and was aimed largely at a "cave society" in-group. There are few today.

The anonymous writer is more a feature of the European press, and a very popular device in the press of the United Kingdom. The codes of class and position, and the low social caste position accorded to the scribes of the press, made it unacceptable for a "gentleman" within the British social system to stoop to writing in the columns of a newspaper. Learned treatises or comments in the letters columns were boldly and proudly signed, but reportage was the responsibility of the lower class. The pseudonym became a standard device.

In a Europe in which the divine right of kings was accepted as grounds for peevish violation of the rights of persons who disagreed, the anonymity^{of}/political writer became a protective device. But, even in Europe it was largely a device utilised for reasons very similar to those outlined for Britain. It followed some recognizable rules of taste and honesty.

Ethically, the privilege of anonymity carries with it the responsibility of honesty. Columns of hard opinion, opposed in some way to the status quo or proposing concepts of ideas of a violently oppositionist nature, often demanded some protection against punitive action by political forces. To this day, in many parts of the world, anonymity provides protection against even more violent action by governments which violate or reject free expression in the press. In these cases, honesty is not a consideration, but rather the hazards of expression of opinion contrary to those acceptable by the authorities is what makes anonymity desirable.

When one is dealing with journalists who are assumed to understand the principles of their profession and the rules, written and unwritten, under which the privileges of their profession are exercised, acceptance of factual reporting and the honest statement of facts, the matter of dishonest reporting or the publication of outright lies rarely arises. The editorial process itself, with published information passing through various levels of trained perusal, protects the media from the publication of matter which violates these basic criteria. With a reporter there is the added threat of loss of employment, and where reported matter exceeds the outer limits of taste and accuracy which the profession sets for itself, there is recourse to the laws of libel.

Thus, the exercise of the privilege of anonymity must carry the responsibility of honesty. Otherwise the press can descend into the editorial sewer for its raw material, and the device of anonymity becomes a cover from behind which malicious, false and damaging material can be published for dishonest objectives.

However, in a press which serves specific interests, which may or may not be concerned with the welfare of the community but more with the projection of the ideas of some minority, the constraints of honest reporting do not apply. The intention in this case is to use the medium as a weapon, and the publication of statements, innuendo, gossip or outright lies is justified as a means which serves an end. Here we do not deal with a press which assumes the responsibilities which accord it the special privileges claimed under the concept of the "freedom of the press". This kind of press uses the freedom accorded to the press and subverts those freedoms to suit other objectives. This use of the press not only demeans the entire press, but removes the medium so doing from the protections which those special privileges accord.

A truly free press should oppose the use of the device of anonymity as a fundamental principle. If the press is free then anonymity is unnecessary, if anonymity is necessary then the press is not free. It is as simple as that.

In the particular case under consideration, the press has obviously been used to publish outright lies. That the lies themselves have been published is bad enough, but these lies have been published from behind a screen of anonymity. And these lies and this anonymity have been protected by the editorial management of the medium involved. This would imply that the publication of these lies was done with the approval and knowledge of the editorial management and that their publication reflected some intention. That intention, considering the nature of the material and its proven falsehood, could only be malicious or mischievous.

To any member of the press, or any body which professes to stand for the principles upon which an honest press is based, this practice can only demand the harshest censure. Any member of the press guilty of such action should be barred for life from being a member of

the organization standing for and protecting the principles which guard the integrity of the press and govern the ethics of those who work in that field.

In the specific case of Listening Post and the false material published aimed at Hon. D.K. Duncan and Hon. Arnold Bertram, the Press Association should issue a public statement condemning the publication of the material, disassociating the Association and its members completely from the type of journalism that such publication represents, and defining clearly the ethical grounds upon which it condemns this action and the medium responsible.

Further, the Association should write directly to the Editor of the Daily Gleaner setting out these matters and issue a press release giving the background and quoting the statement in its entirety. This release should be sent to all media.

If the Gleaner does not publish this release, an advertisement, setting out the statement, should be ^{placed} ~~submitted~~ in the Gleaner and Daily News, and, subject to advice from our legal advisers, if refused, legal means of forcing the Gleaner to publish the statement should be sought.

At the same time the Association should recommend to the complainants that they take legal action for libel against the Gleaner, its editor, and the columnist, and action forcing the Gleaner to reveal the identity of the person who wrote the particular column.

The issue at stake is a benchmark issue and one which can add immeasurably to the stature of our Association and its membership. It is therefore of critical importance that we pursue this matter until we achieve complete exposure, and also should use the opportunity to enhance and expound the principles upon which a free press stands in relation to the people it serves.

And, while making these points the Association might take this opportunity of disassociating itself from the squalid, malicious and lying publications which are from time to time circulated in the community ostensibly in the public interest. In a large number of cases, these publications make distortion and inflammatory statement their entire content. They represent the opinions, frequently, of little-known, irresponsible organizations or groups. Such publications are cancerous growths on the body of journalism. They represent a virulent source of infection, and it is into this body of journalism that the Daily Gleaner places itself when it descends to the level of lies, malicious gossip, or slanderous unfounded statement when seeking to discredit those which whom it finds itself in editorial disagreement. The slender protection sought that only the leading articles represent the opinion of the paper should not be accepted as valid, particularly when the paper's editorial responsibility is claimed by an individual with little honest journalist experience and whose most notable involvement in Jamaica for many years has been as a partisan politician.

The principles upon which the Association stand cannot be divided. They cannot be applied against one section of the community and not against others. Our standards, if they are to have any meaning, must be applied with equal force and effect against all, otherwise they should not claim the privilege of being used against any.


Fred Wilmot.

22 May, 1977



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

1 DEVON ROAD,

P.O. BOX 272.

KINGSTON 6, JAMAICA

May 13, 1977

Dear Sir,

In response to your request for information required by the Committee investigating the complaint from the Hon. D.K. Duncan and the Hon. Arnold Bertram, I set out my recollection of the conversation with Mr. Hector Wynter on the specific subject:

"The day the article appeared in Listening Post, I called Hector Wynter and complained that the allegations were, in fact, lies. He asked me whether I was sure of this. I said, yes.

I told him, however, that, as Editor of the paper it was his responsibility to be sure that the allegations were true rather than to question whether I was sure that they were lies. I said this was particularly the case where someone was said to have acquired a house from someone else, given that the rules governing transfer were such that any allegation about acquisitions could be verified independently. He agreed that this was so, adding that it would be an error of judgment on the part of an editor if he published such allegations without satisfying himself that the allegations were in fact founded.

I made the point that it was particularly significant in the specific instance because the effect of the article and the clear intention of the article were to leave the impression that Ministers Duncan and Bertram were betraying publicly stated socialist positions by displaying acquisitive tendencies that could not be reconciled with those positions. My recollection was that he did not disagree with this proposition.

He promised to check the accuracy of the article immediately because I made the point that since the allegations could be verified independently of a statement by the Ministers then it would be more appropriate for the Gleaner to correct its error rather than to publish a statement from the Ministers saying that the publication was an error.

/Again,....

Mr. Ken Chaplin
Secretary
Press Association
c/o Agency for Public Information

Again, my recollection is that, he agreed with this proposition, adding that if the article was in fact an error, he would so publish.

On that basis, I recommended to Ministers Duncan and Bertram that we withhold replying to the charges for 24 hours to give the Gleaner an opportunity to correct the error on the following day. There was no correcting publication the following day. "

The above is my clearest recollection of the conversation and it represents a fair and honest statement.

Yours truly,


Claude Robinson
Press Secretary to
the Prime Minister

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL MOBILISATION
AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
1 Devon Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica, W.I.



10th May, 1977

Mr. Ken Chaplin,
Press Association of Jamaica,
22a Old Hope Road,
Kingston 5.

Dear Mr. Chaplin,

I must express my apologies for the
delay in responding to your varied letters and requests.

I am willing to attend your meeting.
I am, however, requesting that the meeting should not
be convened on a Monday as this is the day on which
the Cabinet meets.

Sincerely,

D.K. Duncan

D.K. Duncan,
Minister of National Mobilisation &
Human Resource Development

DKD/mh

The Gleaner Company Limited

Established 1834 Incorporated 1897

DIRECTORS:

Hon. L. E. ASHENHEIM, P.C., M.A., (Chairman)
R. G. ASHENHEIM, M.A., B.C.L., (Vice-Chairman)
E. W. ABRAHAMS, F.A.I.A., J.P.
COL. M. R. DECORDOVA, C.B.E., J.P.
T. H. DONALDSON, C.D., J.P.
A. B. EWART, B.Sc., J.P.
M. W. FACEY
J. J. ISSA, B.Sc.
T. E. SEALY, C.B.E., J.P., D.LITT. (Hon.)
O. F. CLARKE, B.Sc., (Econ.), A.C.A., (Mng. Dir.)
C. S. ROBERTS, C.A.



7 North Street

P.O. Box 40

Kingston, Jamaica, W.I.

CABLES: GLEANER, JAMAICA

TELEPHONE 932-3400 (20 lines)

4th May, 1977

Mr. Ken Chaplin,
Recording Secretary to the
Special Committee,
The Press Association of Jamaica,
22a Old Hope Road,
Kingston 5.

Dear Mr. Chaplin,

Your letter of May 4 has just been seen,

Thank you for sending the letter of March 30
from the Ministers which contrary to your letters did
not (and could not) refer to any publication in the
Gleaner of April 1.

I repeat our view that the proper place for
any follow-up to this is with the Caribbean Press Council
which has an established procedure for dealing with
complaints against the media.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

H. L. Wynter
H. L. Wynter
Editor

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C. S. ROBERTS, C.A.



7 North Street

P.O. Box 40

Kingston, Jamaica, W.I.

CABLES: GLEANER, JAMAICA

TELEPHONE 932-3400 (20 lines)

April 29, 1977

Mr. Ken Chaplin,
Secretary,
Press Association of Jamaica,
22a Old Hope Road,
Kingston 5.

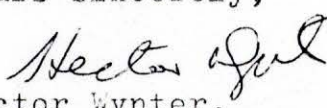
Dear Mr. Chaplin,

Thank you for your letter of April 26. As the Ministers have sent us no details of their complaint to you, save for statements made to the Press, we should be grateful if you would send us copies of their letter.

While we appreciate your interest in the welfare of your members and the Press, we would suggest that any complaints about the media, as opposed to those against individual members of your Association should be submitted to the Caribbean Press Council which has an established procedure dealing with these matters.

Accordingly we are copying your letter and this reply to the Chairman of the Council, Mr. H. Aubrey Fraser at the U.W.I. We enclose for your information a copy the Council's procedure which you may wish to bring to the attention of those who have complained to you.

Yours sincerely,


Hector Wynter,
Editor.

c.c. Mr. H. Aubrey Fraser

THE PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

22a Old Hope Road,
Kingston.

May 4, 1977.

Mr. Hector Wynter,
The Editor,
The Daily Gleaner,
7 North Street,
Kingston.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th April, 1977 and enclosure and, as requested, I am pleased to enclose a copy of the complaint brought jointly by the Honourable Dr. D.K. Duncan and the Honourable Arnold Bertram, concerning certain allegations contained in the Daily Gleaner of the 28th March, 1977 and the 1st April, 1977 under the rubric "Listening Post".

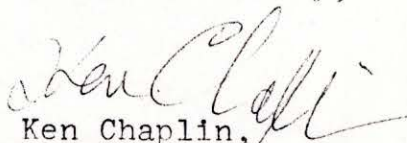
The special committee appointed by the Press Association of Jamaica to investigate this complaint is aware of the existence of the Caribbean Press Council but wishes to explain that the Association is neither an affiliate nor a member of the Council and consequently, does not subscribe to the Council's procedure for dealing with complaints against the media. Indeed, the committee has been informed that because the Association wished to preserve its complete independence and autonomy, it declined affiliation.

I am directed further to inform you that the terms of reference of the special committee are as follows:-

- i. To investigate and report on statements published in the column 'Listening Post' which appeared in the Daily Gleaner on March, 28 1977 and April 1, 1977 which was referred to the Association in a letter of complaint dated March 30, 1977 from the Honourable Dr. D.K. Duncan Minister of National Mobilisation and the Honourable Arnold Bertram, Minister of Culture and Information.
- ii. To ascertain if the statements are factual or incorrect and to find out what are the facts.
- iii. To determine whether the reports adhered to the principles of fair and factual reporting.

In these circumstances the committee again invites you, in your capacity of Editor of the Daily Gleaner to attend its next meeting on Tuesday, 10th May, at 5.00 P.M, at the Press Club, 22A, Old Hope Road, Kingston, to discuss the complaints. Both Ministers of Government have indicated that this meeting, unlike the last, are conveniently timed for them and have undertaken to be present. Should you not feel able to accept this invitation (as implied by the second paragraph of your letter) or, if the time is inconvenient, please be good enough so to indicate as the committee is anxious to complete its deliberations at the earliest possible date.

Yours faithfully,


Ken Chaplin,

(Recording Secretary to the Special Committee)

10/5/77.

① Introduction

②.

Manal obligation of
Publications

Minutes asked for meeting
to be brought forward
by half an hour + then
turned up late.

Character Attack

W.B. Grant

complained to

P.A. + Council

Set up to investigate

See Minutes Jan 5, 1970.

Sylvia Lee - declined

Ray Reynolds

Fred Wilmer

P. A.

Fred Wilmer.

Meeting S. of C. 21

April 21

May 2

May 10

May 24

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE :
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MAY 10, 1977

The third meeting of the Special Committee appointed to enquire into the complaint against the Daily Gleaner by Ministers D.K. Duncan and Arnold Bertram was held on May 10 at the Press Club.

Present were Messrs. Peter Abrahams, Roy Reynolds and Ken Chaplin, recording secretary.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Hector Wynter reiterating that the Caribbean Press Council is the proper place to deal with such complaints.

The Committee, however, decided to proceed with the enquiry under the terms of reference laid down by the Executive Committee.

The first complainant called was Hon. Arnold Bertram, Minister of Culture and Information. All letters relating to the complaint were read to him.

The Chairman, Mr. Abrahams put to

Mr. Bertram the suggestion by Mr. Wynter that the matter be referred to to Caribbean Press Council.

Mr. Bertram said that he felt the Press Association of Jamaica is the proper organisation to which the complaint should be made in the first place. He emphasised that ~~the~~ *he* wished the Association to deal with the matter.

He then made the following statement:

"I have never acquired nor ~~contemplate~~ to acquire nor to move into L.C. McKenzie's Cherry Gardens residence. I have no intention of removing from 47 University Crescent, a three-bedroom house which I purchased from Mr. O.K. Melhado (Not from Mr. Jim Lim) for \$40,000.

I own no other property of any kind== farm or house.

I feel that the article is damaging to my integrity and that it was trying to make out that the way I live is not in keeping with my political principles. The article questions my integrity as a Democratic Socialist and my sincerity as a man."

Mr. Bertram said he would make the following information available to the committee: The date on which he purchased the University Crescent house, volume and folio number of the title.

Dr. D.K. Duncan, the other complainant, was then called: Mr. Abrahams put to him Mr. Wynter's suggestion that the matter be referred to the Caribbean

Press Council.

Dr. Duncan said he still felt that the issue was within the jurisdiction of the Press Association of Jamaica.

He then made the following statement:

"The only house I own is at No. 1 Rollins Avenue, Bridgeport which I purchased in 1975 for \$19,000. I still live at this house. I do not contemplate selling this house nor do I contemplate removing to another house..

I jointly own an office building in Brown's Town. I own no other real ~~estate~~ estate.

I have never reproved Minister Bertram for purchasing any house. In fact I helped to remove Mr. Bertram from Mountain Terrace where he was living to his University Crescent house. Mr. Bertram removed from Mountain Terrace because his family became larger and he needed a three-bedroom house.

I feel that the article was calculated to assassinate my character. It is my view that the Association is best body to impose some sort of professional sanction for this unfair, personal attack on me.

I do not believe that economic sanction is the most punitive.

Dr. Duncan promised to forward to the Committee the following information. Date of purchase of his house in Bridgeport, volume and folio number of title.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE:
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MAY 2, 1977

The second meeting of the Special Committee investigating into complaints against the Daily Gleaner by Minister Dr. D.K. Duncan and Minister Arnold Bertram was held at the Press Club on May 2, 1977:

Present were Messrs. Peter Abrahams, Fred Wilmot, Earl Witter and Ken Chaplin, recording secretary.

The Secretary read letters to Mr. Hector Wynter, Editor of the Daily Gleaner and Ministers Duncan and Bertram inviting them to a meeting of the Committee on May 2, 1977.

The reply by Mr. Wynter suggesting that the complaint be submitted to the Caribbean Press Council, was read by the Secretary.

The Secretary also informed the meeting that both Messrs. Duncan and Bertram had said they were willing to appear before the Committee but that Monday was inconvenient, that being the day when Cabinet ~~usually~~ meets.

The meeting expressed complete disagreement with the position taken by the Editor of the Gleaner.

The Committee was of the view that the Press Association is not a member of the Caribbean

(2)

Press Council and was not prepared at this stage to surrender its ~~sovereignty~~ sovereignty to an extra-territorial authority.

The meeting agreed that Mr. Wynter should be written to this effect and invited once more to meet the Committee on Tuesday, May 10 at 5 p.m.

The Secretary was requested to contact Messrs. Bertram and Duncan and invite them to the meeting on May 10.

The Fred Wilmot said he had not yet prepared the document regarding the anonymity of columnists.

22 a Old Hope Road,
Kingston 5,
April 26, 1977.

Mr. Hector Wynter,
Editor,
Daily Gleaner,
North Street,
Kingston.

Dear Mr. Wynter,

The Press Association of Jamaica has received a complaint from the Hon. D. K. Duncan, Minister of National Mobilisation and Hon. Arnold Bertram, Minister of Culture and Information concerning certain statements published in the Daily Gleaner on March 28, 1977 and April 1, 1977.

The Executive Committee has set up a special committee to investigate the matter.

Special
The Committee is inviting you in your capacity as Editor of the Daily Gleaner to a meeting at the Press Club, 22a Old Hope Road, on Monday, May 2, 1977 at 5 p.m to discuss the matter.

Both Ministers have also been invited to the meeting.

Yours sincerely,


Ken Chaplin,
Hon. Secretary,

(Recording Secretary to the
Special Committee).

22a Old Hope Road,
Kingston,
April 26, 1977.

Honourable Arnold Bertram,
Minister of Culture and Information,
1 Devon Road,
Kingston.

Dear Mr. Bertram,

The Executive Committee of the Press Association has set up a special committee to investigate the complaint which you made against the Daily Gleaner concerning the publication of certain statements in the column, "Listening Post" on March 28, 1977.

The Special Committee is inviting you to a meeting at the Press Club, 22a Old Hope Road, on Monday May 2, 1977 at 5 p.m. to discuss the matter.

Mr. Hector Wynter of the Daily Gleaner, has also invited to the meeting.

Yours sincerely,


Ken Chaplin,
Hon. Secretary.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE:

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON APRIL 25, 1977

FIRST MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA TO INVESTIGATE A COMPLAINT BY THE HON.

D.K. DUNCAN, MINISTER OF NATIONAL MOBILIZATION AND HON. ARNOLD BERTRAM, MINISTER OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION AGAINST THE CONTENTS OF THE GLEANER COLUMN, "LISTENING POST" ON MARCH 28 AND APRIL 1, 1977, *was held*

held on Monday, April 25.

PRESENT WERE:

PETER ABRAHAMS

ROY REYNOLDS

EARL WITTER

and

FRED WILMOT

MR. PETER ABRAHAMS WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN.

THE RECORDING SECRETARY, MR. KEN CHAPLIN READ THE LETTER OF COMPLAINT FROM MESSRS. BERTRAM AND DUNCAN.

THE MEETING DELEGATED MR. WITTER TO ESTABLISH THE LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF THE PREMISES CONCERNED.

IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT ~~MESSRS.~~ ^{MR.} WYNTER (AS EDITOR OF THE GLEANER) AND MESSRS. BERTRAM AND DUNCAN SHOULD BE INVITED TO MEET THE COMMITTEE ON MONDAY, MAY 2 TO DISCUSS THE MATTER, BEARING IN MIND THAT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

MR. WILMOT ~~WYNTER~~ VOLUNTEERED TO PREPARE A DOCUMENT FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WHOLE QUESTION OF ANONYMITY OF ~~WYNTER~~ COLUMNISTS.

100 A. L. H.
May 2, 1977.

Draft Findings & Recommendations of PAJ Special Committee to Investigate Complaints by D.K. Duncan and Arnold Bertram Against Gleaner Column 'Listening Post' of March 28th & April 1st, 1977

HISTORY OF EVENTS

1. Begin by setting out details leading up to the appointing of the Special Committee. i.e the letter of complaint from the two Ministers; the contents of the columns complained about; PAJ Executive Committee decision to appoint investigating committee. In all instances fill in dates. List all those invited to serve, including Miss Lee who declined.
2. Set out in full terms of reference of Committee
3. List number of sittings, with dates, of Committee. Indicate here that very first decision of Committee ~~was~~ to invite the Editor of the Gleaner and the two Ministers to meet the Committee. Letter date April 26th addressed to Mr. Wynter should be published in full, and it should be made clear that similar letters went to the two Ministers
3. Both Ministers agreed to meet with Committee, asking for a date that would not conflict with Mondays' Cabinet meetings. Mr. Wynter wrote back suggesting that the Ministers' complaint should be submitted to the Caribbean Press Council. Here insert the first letter to Mr. Wynter, his reply; the Committee's second letter to him and his reply. Suggest the Caribbean Press Council Memo does not form part of our document but is mentioned in passing since Wynter refers to it.
4. On May 10, 1977, the Honourable Arnold Bertram, Minister of Culture & Information appeared before the Committee. Mr. Bertram was informed of the suggestion in Mr. Wynter's letter that his complaint be referred to the Caribbean Press Council. Mr. Bertram said it was his view that the Press Association of Jamaica is the proper organisation to which his complaint should be made and he wished the Association to deal with the matter. Mr. Bertram was then questioned on the substance of his complaint. He denied categorically that he had "acquired Mr. L.C. McKenzie's Cherry Gardens mansion" as alleged by the Listening Post item of the Gleaner dated March 28, 1977. He further categorically denied the allegation contained in the same item that "he was reprovved in no uncertain fashion by his colleague Dr. D.K. Duncan on the ground that their capitalist enemies would point to it as evidence of high living incompatible with the socialist life-style". Members of the Committee later and separately questioned Dr. D.K. Duncan on the specific point of having allegedly 'reprovved' his colleague. Dr. Duncan branded the allegation as totally false. Mr. Bertram further informed the Committee that the only property he owned was the three-bedroom house at 47 University Crescent, in which he and his family live, and which he bought from Mr. O.K. Melhado for \$40,000. A subsequent Listening Post in the April 1, 1977 issue of the Gleaner, purporting to correct the earlier item of March 28th, merely compounds the matter by stating that Dr. Duncan's 'reproving' of Mr. Bertram took place two years earlier than alleged in the March 28 item when 'Mr. Bertram acquired Mr. Jim Lim's (not Mr. McKenzie's) former home at University

Crescent. Mr. Betram insists that there had been no reproof of any kind in connection with his acquiring of a home; there was no 'reproof' as originally alleged in the March 28th item, and there was no 'reproof' two years earlier as alleged in the supposed correction in the April 1st item. Indeed, the April 1st ^{perpetrates} another falsehood by alleging that Mr. Betram acquired ~~the~~ his home at University Crescent from Mr. Jim Lim; the fact is that he bought it from Mr. O.K. Melhado, a colleague with whom he works. During the questioning it came out that the P.M.'s Press Secretary had communicated with the Gleaner editor about these complaints.

5. Later on May 10, 1977, the Honourable Dr. D.K. Duncan, Minister of Mobilisation appeared before the Committee. He too was informed of Mr. Wynter's suggestion that the complaint be referred to the Caribbean Press Council. Dr. Duncan's view was that this was a straightforward Jamaican matter which was capable of resolution by the Press Association of Jamaica without any reference to any external authority and he therefore wanted the Press Association to investigate and pronounce on the complaints made to it by Mr. Betram and himself. Under questioning Dr. Duncan denied the allegation contained in the Listening Post item of the Gleaner of March 28 that his house at Bridgeport was up for sale and that he was moving up to Billy Dunn. He also repudiated as mischievous the suggestion contained in the Listening Post item of the Gleaner of April 1st that: "D.K. has not yet moved to Billy Dunn. Apparently there have been no satisfactory responses yet to the ad offering his Bridgeport house for sale". Dr. Duncan provided the Committee with copies of his declaration of assets.

5. On the basis of the information from the two complaining Ministers the Committee asked for and received a statement from Mr. Claude Robinson, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister, on his telephone conversation on the matter with the Editor of the Gleaner. We set out Mr. Robinson's statement in its entirety...

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ FINDINGS

6.a) Since the editor of the Gleaner has, indirectly and by inference, questioned the competence of the Press Association of Jamaica (and therefore any committee appointed by it) to investigate and report on the complaints made to it by Ministers Duncan and Bertram, this Committee wishes to put on record the fact that there is precedent for such an investigation by the Press Association of Jamaica. During the tenure of Mr. Clifton Neita as President of the Press Association of Jamaica, Mr. V.B. Grant, then Attorney-General of Jamaica, in 1970 complained to the Executive of the Press Association of Jamaica on some matter published in the Gleaner. The Executive of the day thereupon set up a committee to investigate the matter. Please see Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of the Press Association of Jamaica dated January 5, 1970.

b) The Press Association of Jamaica is not an affiliate of the Caribbean Press Council and is therefore not bound by, nor obliged to adhere to, its Memorandum of Operations and Procedures.

c) It is the view of the Committee that as the universally recognised

long established, and time-honoured organisation of professional journalists in Jamaica the Press Association of Jamaica must not compromise its sovereign right to act as the primary forum ~~to which~~ Jamaican citizens can make their complaints if and when they feel unfairly dealt with by any section of the Jamaican news media. The high principle of sovereignty is involved here and the Committee urges most strongly that the Executive underscores that principle in any public comment it chooses to make on this particular aspect of the matter.

7) On the substance of the complaints of the two Ministers the Committee finds as follows:

- a) The Listening Post allegation of March 28 that Mr. Arnold Bertram had acquired Mr. L.C. McKenzie's Cherry Gardens mansion is totally false.
- b) The allegation in the same item that Dr. Duncan had reprimanded Mr. ~~Bertram~~ over the acquisition is totally false.
- c) The allegation in the second paragraph of the same Listening Post item that Dr. Duncan was selling his Bridgeport house and moving up to Billy Dunn is totally false.
- d) The apparent corrections printed in paragraph three of the Listening Post column of April 1st only compound the falsehoods listed above i.e.
 - i) Dr. Duncan reprimanded his colleague two years earlier. This is false.
 - ii) It was Mr. Lim's, not Mr. McKenzie's house, that Mr. Bertram bought. This, too, is false.
 - iii) Dr. Duncan had not yet moved to Billy Dunn because he had not yet sold his Bridgeport house. This, too, is false.& misleading.

8) the facts, as ascertained by the Committee, are set out in the section above headed history of events and by the documents provided by the two Ministers setting out the details of their holdings, as well as by the statement made by the Press Secretary to the Prime Minister. On the basis of these facts it is the finding of this Committee that:

The statements and allegations made about Mr Arnold Bertram and Dr. D.K. Duncan in paragraphs one and two of the Gleaner column Listening Post dated March 28, and paragraph 3 of the Gleaner column Listening Post of April 1st, 1977, do not adhere to the principles of fair and factual reporting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. In their appearances before the Committee both of the Minister

made it clear that they regarded the published matter about which they complained as politically motivated attempts to damage their public reputations as politicians and socialists of integrity. It would have been extremely helpful if your Committee had been able to ask questions of the author or authors of this column on this particular aspect of the matter. But there was no way we could do this as the Editor of the Gleaner chose not to co-operate and the anonymity of the author or authors was buried so deep or was so diffuse that we could not get at it. We therefore recommend that the Executive of the Press Association work out some formula whereby it becomes possible, if and when complaints of facts and of substance are made against anonymous contributors, for any investigating committee to be able to interview such contributors in secrecy and with an undertaking not to make public their identity. As things now stand, anonymity can be and has been used as a kind shield from behind which some gross acts of journalistic irresponsibility ~~perpetrated~~ have been foisted on the society. The substance of the two Ministers' complaint is a case in point. And this can only damage our profession irreparably if it is not brought ^{under} some sort of control within the profession. One of the great concerns is that ^{most of} the ~~recent~~ explosion ~~of~~ anonymous contributors - allegedly all males hiding behind femininity - are really political operatives for whom the often hard grind of first checking facts from every possible angle before presenting them, and then presenting them as fairly as possible, are ~~not~~ ^{only} ~~subordinate~~ the playing of the political power game. And this can be as great a threat and danger to press freedom as any threat from any government. One of the ways to safeguard against this is to remove the smokescreen of anonymity and ~~xxxxxxx~~ let the people know who are the professional journalists and who the political operatives using the media. Where the press is really free the need for anonymity ~~is~~ is minimal. The press is free in Jamaica. The professional journalists here are prepared to put their names to what they write and what they say. We therefore urge that in addition to working ^{out} some way of making anonymous contributors at least answerable to the Press Association in case of complaints of substance, the Association also adopts a clearcut stand against anonymity in general, and against anonymity in particular when it is used as a shield from behind which personal attacks and attempts at character assassination are launched.

Finally, we urge the speeding up of the long overdue bringing into force of the registration of professional journalists and the standards and conditions for such registration. Until this is done our profession will go on facing the dangers of being used and abused by political operatives hiding behind the smokescreen of anonymity.

1. By letter dated March 30, 1977 (Attached hereto as Appendix 1) two Ministers of Government, the HON D.K. DUNCAN and the HON. ARNOLD BERTRAM, jointly complained to the PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA about certain allegations made against them in the column 'LISTENING POST' published in the March 28, 1977 issue of the DAILY GLEANER (Attached ~~substance~~ hereto as Appendix 2). They asked the ASSOCIATION to investigate these allegations.
2. On April 19, 1977 the Executive Committee of the ~~Committee~~ *Association* appointed a special Committee comprising Mrs. Sylvia Lee, Messrs. Fred Wilmot, Peter Abrahams, Roy Reynolds and Earl Whitter *with* Mr. Ken Chaplin *as Recording* ~~was appointed President~~ Secretary to the Committee, *with the following* ~~whose~~ Terms of Reference: ~~was~~ (Set out)
Mrs. Lee, apparently apprehending a conflict of interest, declined to serve on the special Committee.
In order ~~to~~ make clear that the Committee thinks it is of no consequence, we observe in passing that although paragraph (i) of the Terms of Reference relates to publications on March 28 and April 1, the letter of complaint was concerned only with the former. The letter is attached hereto as Appendix 3.
3. It is convenient ^{here} to analyse the material portions of Appendices 2 and 3.

Appendix 2 asserts:

- (a) Mr. L.C. McKenzie owns a mansion in Cherry Gardens
- (b) Mr. Bertram acquired it.
- (c) For doing so Mr. Bertram was harshly rebuked by Dr. Duncan on grounds ideological.
- (d) Some months before March, 1977 a doctor advertised for sale a house in Edgewater, St. Catherine
- (e) The house advertised was actually situated in Bridgeport and is owned by DR. DUNCAN.
- (f) Dr. Duncan was "moving up" to BILLY DUNN, ST. ANDREW, and

- 2 -
- (g) By reason of the foregoing, it is possible Dr. Duncan had "changed his mind about ~~the~~ socialist life style or about the merits of certain kinds of criticism."

Appendix 3 which ~~purported~~ ^{purported} to be a ~~connection~~ ^{connection} of Appendix 2 stated:

- (a) Dr. Duncan's alleged reproof of Mr. Bertram was delivered two years prior to April 1.
- (b) The rebuke was occasioned by Mr. Bertram's purchase of Mr. Jim Lim's (not Mr. L.C. McKenzies's) "former home" in the University Crescent, St. Andrew.
- (c) Mr. Bertram moved to University Crescent from his Mountain View Avenue 6oop house.
- (d) Dr. Duncan was still moving to Billy Dunn
- (e) There appeared to have been "no satisfactory responses yet to his ad offering his Bridgeport house for sale".

- 4. The Committee held four sittings, all at the Press Club. At the first sitting, Mr. Abrahams was elected Chairman of the Committee.
- 5. By letters dated April 26, 1977 Attached hereto as Appendix 4 (a), (b) & (c) the Committee invited the two Ministers and Mr. Hector Wynter, in his capacity of Editor of the DAILY GLEANER, to a sitting on May 2, to discuss the complaints.
- 6. By letter dated April 29, 1977, (Attached hereto as Appendix 5) Mr. Wynter requested a copy of the Ministers' complaint at the ^{time} same suggesting that "complaints against the media as ~~opposed~~ ^{opposed} to those against individual members of your Association should be submitted to the CARIBBEAN PRESS COUNCIL which has an established procedure (for) dealing with these matters."

At all events, no evidence was taken at this sitting as

Mr. Wynter did not appear and the Ministers were variously off the island and engaged in CABINET.

Another meeting was scheduled for May 10. The Committee replied to Appendix 5 by letter dated May 4, indicating its intentions to proceed with the enquiry and again inviting Mr. Wynter to attend,

if the time was convenient, and to say so, if it was not. On the same day Mr. Wynter replied (Appendix 7) repeating the view that "the proper place for any follow-up to the complaint) is with the CARIBBEAN PRESS COUNCIL"

7. Both Ministers attended upon the Committee on May 10 and were separately interviewed. Both were informed of Mr. Wynter's suggestion of a reference to the CARIBBEAN PRESS COUNCIL and both insisted that they wished the Press Association of Jamaica to deal with the complaint.
8. Mr. Bertram denied that he had ever acquired or intended to acquire any mansion in Cherry Gardens owned by Mr. McKenzie. As a consequence, he had never been rebuked by Dr. Duncan. In January 1976 he had moved from a house in Mountain Terrace to another at University Crescent, Kingston 6, which premises he had purchased from Mr. O.K. Melhado. He felt that the relevant article damaged his integrity by trying to make out that his life style did not conform with his professed political principles.
Dr. Duncan told the Committee that the only house he owned was situated at 19, Rolling Avenue, Bridgeport, Saint Catherine which he purchased in 1975 for \$J19,00.00. He had never advertised this house for sale and had no intention of doing so. He had no plans for moving to Billy Dunn. Far from reproving Mr. Bertram over the acquisition of any house, he had actually assisted him in the removal from Mountain Terrace to University Crescent. He suggested that Mr. Bertram had moved to University Crescent because his family had grown ^{larger} and he now required a three-bedroom house. The Committee subsequently requested and obtained from Mr. Claude Robinson, the Press Secretary to the Prime Minister, a statement regarding a ^{telephone} conversation he had with Mr. Wynter on the day of the first publication. In a letter dated May 13 (Attached hereto as Appendix 8) Mr. Robinson submitted the statement. According to Mr. Robinson he told Mr. Wynter ["] The effect of the article and the clear intention of the article were to leave the impression that Ministers Duncan and Bertram were betraying publicly stated socialist positions by displaying acquisitive

tendencies that could not be reconciled with those positions⁵. In addition, the Committee conducted certain searches in the Title Office.

9. It is clear that the Committee would have profited from the opportunity of interviewing Mr. Wynter. *His attitude was not to be taken into account* The basis of his suggestion that the matter be referred to the CARIBBEAN PRESS COUNCIL (i.e. that that body has an established procedure for dealing with complaints against the media) *it may be said however,* is spurious. So is the distinction he vainly sought to erect between the media and media personnel. Indeed, ~~an~~ at least one occasion previously, the Daily Gleaner cooperated fully in a Press Association investigation into a complaint of unfair and inaccurate reporting made against that newspaper. (See Minutes of Executive Meeting dated January 5, 1970). *And it is wrong to say that the Council did not then exist*
10. As will appear from the foregoing, the Committee was mindful of the ancient principle of natural justice: "Both sides to a dispute must be heard." Mr. Wynter was afforded a fair opportunity of a hearing but spurned it. In these circumstances, the Committee has no choice but to act on the material before it.

F I N D I N G S

In view of the fact that the purported correction of April 1 is garbled and is, in respects, no less snide than the March 28 publication, both columns, so far as is material, must be looked at as one. On this basis, the following findings are made:

- (a) If, which is immaterial, Mr. L.C. McKenzie owned a mansion in Cherry Gardens, it is totally untrue that Mr. Bertram has acquired it. It is equally false that Dr. Duncan rebuked Mr. Bertram over this alleged acquisition, or, that of premises 47, University Crescent, Kingston 6.

The fact is that by Transfer dated March 16, 1977 and registered March 17, 1977, Mr. Bertram and his wife, Jean Angela Claire (as joint tenants) acquired the premises known as 47, University Crescent, Kingston 6 (as evidenced by Certificate of Title

registered at Volume 1136 Folio 790 of the Register Book of Titles) for \$40,000.000. The vendors were a company, Vera Cruz Limited, of 36, Duke Street, Kingston. The premises were formerly comprised in Certificate of Title registered at Volume 704

Folio 18 and, as such, were owned by James Torrance Lim and Beatrice Mary, his wife between September 6, 1963 and August 18, 1969, when they transferred to a company, University Investments Limited.

- (b) The allegations that Dr. Duncan had advertised for sale any house owned by him in Edgewater or Bridgeport Saint Catherine and/or that he had plans for moving residence to the salubrious district of Billy Dunn, Saint Andrew, are groundless. So too is the allegation of April 1 that he had not yet done so because of "no satisfactory response" to the advertisement.

It follows that the March 28 speculation that Dr. Duncan had "changed his mind about Socialist life styles or about the merits of certain kinds of criticism" was mischievous, to say the least.

It is true that Dr. Duncan and his wife, Grace Verona, are joint proprietors of the land known as 19, Rollins Avenue, Bridgeport, Saint Catherine. The Minister and Grace Verona Powe, (as she then was) bought the premises (registered at Volume 1070 Folio 394) from Albion Estates Development Company (Jamaica) Limited for \$16,490.00, in 1974.

There can be little doubt that the two columns, by purporting to expose embarrassing conflicts between the Ministers' avowed Socialist politics and their actual yearning for the luxurious life style, were calculated to hold them up to public ridicule and contempt. The conclusion is therefore irresistible that the reports not only failed to adhere but, did violence to the principles of fair and factual reporting.

Finally, the opportunity must not be allowed to pass for saying that the kind of reportage reflected in the columns under review should find no place in a newspaper of responsibility. No less unpalatable is the dense but not impenetrable veil of anonymity which shields its author or authors. A very instructive and relevant paper by Fred Wilmot is attached as Appendix 9.

~~Sc~~
Fred Wilmot

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History of Events

The President of the Press Association of Jamaica received the following letter dated March 30, 1977, signed jointly by the Hon. D. K. Duncan, Minister of Mobilization and Human Resource Development and Hon. Arnold Bertram, Minister of Information and Culture^A.

"A"

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(2)

"A"

The President
Press Association

Dear Sirs:

It is with regret that we are forced to bring to the official attention of the Press Association of Jamaica a most slanderous report in Monday's issue of the Daily Gleaner in a column called Listening Post.

The column claimed that Arnold Bertram had acquired a Cherry Gardens mansion and that D.K. Duncan had "moved up to Billy Dunn".

This latest attack must be seen against a background of the fact that in recent weeks several Ministers have had to complain about Gleaner reporting which has consistently distorted statements made by these Ministers. The effect of these distortions is that the Gleaner's version of the statements end up approximating the Gleaner's viewpoint of the particular Ministers. In the cases where the Ministers have complained about inaccurate reporting, the Editor of the Gleaner simply appends a footnote saying that their reporters' notes confirm their version of what was said.

In addition to distortion of public statements, the Gleaner has also been inventing and printing outright lies about Ministers. For example, a recent columnist claimed, without a shred of evidence, that D.K. Duncan had imported (illegally) a new BMW motor car - (Colin Gregory, March 7, 1977). Such lies are calculated to damage characters said cast doubt on the political integrity of the Ministers involved.

Under normal circumstances, one would simply have written to the Gleaner to point out that the Listening Post allegations are lies. But we think the matter is more serious than that. Therefore, we are requesting the Press Association to conduct an independent investigation into the allegations contained in the column. You will find it is a lie to say that Arnold Bertram has "acquired L.C McKenzie's Cherry Gardens mansion" or that D.K. Duncan has sold his bridgeport house and has 'moved up' to Billy Dunn.

.../2

Press Association of Jamaica.

March 30, 1977

The legal transfer and ownership of houses are matters of public record in Jamaica, and therefore, your Association can easily and quickly investigate the claims.

For the record, Arnold Bertram is the owner/occupier of a house on University Crescent (hardly a "Charry Gardens Mansion") and D.K Duncan is the owner/occupier of a house in Bridgeport.

We urge you to publish your findings and we also urge you to publicly denounce this so-called journalism as a politically inspired manoeuvre to cast doubt on our integrity and ideological consistency and further, to create disunity in the P.N.P.

Yours sincerely,

D.K. Duncan
Minister of Mobilization &
Human Resource Development.

Arnold Bertram
Minister of Information &
Culture,
Office of the Prime Minister.

Copy: To all media

The column about which the complaint was made was published in the Daily Gleaner of March 28 and read.

"B"

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(5)

Housing Problem

I hear that when Mr. Arnold Bertram, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office acquired Mr. L.C. McKenzie's Cherry Gardens mansion he was reproved in no uncertain fashion by his colleague Dr. D.K. Duncan on the ground that their capitalist enemies would point to it as evidence of high living incompatible with the socialist life style.

Some months ago there appeared in the Gleaner an ad stating "Doctor's house for sale in Edgewater". It turned out to have been Dr. Duncan's Bridgeport house which was being offered for sale. Why? D.K. Was moving up - to Billy Dunn in fact.

Inconsistent? Well perhaps a little. But maybe the Minister of Mobilization has changed his mind about Socialist life styles or about the merit of certain kinds of criticism.

Tax Rumours

I hear that the usual crop of rumours based on speculation have begun to go the rounds as the new budget period approaches. Some writers have written to Listening Post sending rumours heard about a wide range of taxes.

These are rumours which are difficult to track down because Government will not be able to discount any particular tax proposals being rumoured before budget day. Otherwise they would be disclosing budget secrets.

So cool it and wait for the Minister's speech in Parliament. Alas, there will always be rumours on house tax, gas tax, property tax, this tax and that tax the other tax. But only the Minister knows and he certainly cannot talk - until Budget Day. So let's be prepared, and wait. Time enough Gird your loins and keep cool

The Listener

On April 1 the following column was published in "Listening Post"

"C"

The Executive Committee of the Press Association of Jamaica met on April 12 and appointed a special investigating committee consisting of Messrs. Peter Abrahams, Fred Wilmot, Roy Reynolds, Earl Witter, honorary legal adviser and Mrs. Sylvia Lee.

Mrs. Lee declined to serve on the committee because of her connection with the Daily Gleaner.

The terms of reference of the Committee follows:

- i. To investigate and report on statements published in the column 'Listening Post' which appeared in the Daily Gleaner on May 28, 1977 and April 1, 1977 which referred to the Association in a letter of complaint dated March 30, 1977 from the Hon. D.K. Duncan, Minister of Mobilization and the Hon. Arnold Bertram, Minister of Culture and Information.
- ii To ascertain if the statements are factual or incorrect and to find out what are the facts.
- iii To determine whether reports adhered to the principles of fair and factual reporting.

"C"

I hear that Listening Post is accused of boobing in respect of three rumours which were tracked down. When Listening Post checked about the rumour of a Russian Ambassador having been appointed; Listening Post received certain information to the contrary. It turned out that the rumour was half right, and the fact half wrong. The Russian Ambassador has been appointed according to Reuter and his name announced in Moscow. He is Mr. Yuri Volsky, but he resides in Mexico not in Jamaica. So residence? Not yet; at least not for the Ambassador Still to know whether an Embassy is planned here with a Charge d'Affaires.

Another is the case of the distinguished Jamaican going to Unesco. Listening Post checked this and the information carried to the contrary was from the official horse's mouth, so to speak. Have we been wrong again, and is the rumour correct? We will see. But one reader is adamant that we have been led up the garden path.

The third concerned the alleged reproof of Mr. Bertram by Mr. Duncan. Here there was an inaccuracy. The incident took place two years ago when Mr. Bertram acquired Mr. Jim Lim's (not Mr. McKenzie's) former home at University Crescent and moved there from his Mountain View Avenue Co-op house. I hear D.K has not yet moved to Billy Dunn. Apparently there have been no satisfactory responses yet to the ad offering his Bridgeport house for sale.

I hear that when it comes to bureacuracy, Jamaica has still to catch up with the developed countries. Take France, for example So well developed is the bureaucracy there that the following practical joke proved effective. An official looking letter on Social Security headed paper was received by several old people in Grenoble, France. It said.

"According to our records, you have now reached your age limit. You are requested under Article 217 of the Law, to present yourself at the local cemetery so we can have you cremated. Bring a bag for your ashes" One 70-year old lady became seriously ill on receiving the letter. Others became very frightened. The Police are still to find the prankster.

The Special Committee held four sittings - on April 25, May 2, 10 and 25.

At its first sitting the Special Committee decided to invite the Editor of the Daily -leaner and the two Ministers to meet with it.

The letter of invitation dated April 26, 1977 to the Editor of the Daily Gleaner, Mr. Hector Wynter was as follows:

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"D"

22a Old Hope Road,
Kingston 5,
April 26, 1977

Mr. Hector Wynter,
Editor,
Daily Gleaner,
North Street,
Kingston.

Dear Mr. Wynter,

The Press Association of Jamaica has received a complaint from the Hon. D.K. Duncan, Minister of National Mobilization and Hon. Arnold Bertram, Minister of Culture in the Daily Gleaner on March 28, 1977 and April 1, 1977.

The Executive Committee has set up a special committee to investigate the matter.

The Special Committee is inviting you in your capacity as Editor of the Daily Gleaner to a meeting at the Press Club., 22a Old Hope Road, on Monday, May 2, 1977 at 5 p.m discuss the matter.

Both Ministers have also been invited to the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Chaplin,
Hon. Secretary,
(Recording Secretary to the Special Committee)

Similar letters of invitations were also sent to the two Ministers.

Both Ministers agreed to meet the Committee, asking for a date that would not conflict with the Monday Cabinet meetings.

Mr. Wynter replied by letter dated April 29, 1977 suggesting that the Ministers' complaint be submitted to the Caribbean Press Council.

Following is the text of Mr. Wynter.

"F"

"E"

April 29, 1977

Mr. Ken Chaplin,
Secretary,
Press Association of Jamaica,
22a Old hope Road,
Kingston 5.

Dear Mr. Chaplin,

Thank you for your letter of April 26. As the Ministers have sent us no details of their complaint to you, save for statements made to the Press, we should be grateful if you would send us copies of their letter.

While we appreciate your interest in the welfare of your members and the Press, we would suggest that any complaints about the media, as opposed to those against individual members of your Association should be submitted to the Caribbean Press Council which has an established procedure dealing with these matters.

Accordingly we are copying your letter and this reply to the Chairman of the Council, Mr. H Aubrey Fraser at the U.W.I. We enclose for your information a copy the Council's procedure which you may wish to bring to the attention of those who have complained to you.

Yours sincerely,

Hector Wynter,
Editor.

c.c. Mr. Aubrey Fraser.

The Special Committee wrote to Mr. Wynter on May 4, 1977 again inviting him to a meeting on May 10, 1977 to discuss the matter:

Following is the letter:

"F"

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The Press Association of Jamaica,
22a Old Hope Road,
Kingston 5.
May 4, 1977.

Mr. Hector Wynter,
The Editor,
The Daily Gleaner,
7 North Street,
Kingston.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th April, 1977 and enclosure and, as requested, I am pleased to enclose a copy of the complaint brought jointly by the Honourable Dr. D.K. Duncan and the Honourable Arnold Bertram, concerning certain allegations contained in the Daily Gleaner of the 28th March, 1977 and the 1st April, 1977 under the rubric "Listening Post".

The special committee appointed by the Press Association of Jamaica to investigate this complaint is aware of the existence of the Caribbean Press Council but wishes to explain that the Association is neither an affiliate nor a member of the Council and consequently, does not subscribe to the Council's procedure for dealing with complaints against the media. Indeed, the committee has been informed that because the Association wished to preserve its complete independence and autonomy, it declined affiliation.

I am directed further to inform you that the terms of reference of the special committee are as follows:-

- i. To investigate and report on statements published in the column 'Listening Post' which appeared in the Daily Gleaner on March, 28, 1977 and April 1, 1977 which was referred to the Association in a letter of complaint dated March 30, 1977 from Honourable Dr. D.K. Duncan Minister of Mobilization and the Honourable Arnold Bertram, Minister of Culture and Information.
- ii To ascertain if the statements are factual or incorrect and to find out what are the facts.
- iii To determine whether the reports adhered to the principles of fair and factual reporting.

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In these circumstances the committee again invites you, in your capacity of Editor of the Daily Gleaner to attend its next meeting on Tuesday, 10th May, at 5:00 P.M at the Press Club, 22a Old Hope Road, Kingston 5, to discuss the complaints. Both Ministers of Government have indicated that this meeting, unlike the last are conveniently timed for them and have undertaken to be present. Should you not feel able to accept this invitation (as implied by the second paragraph of your letter) or, if the time is inconvenient, please be good enough so to indicate as the committee is anxious to complete its deliberations at the earliest possible date.

Yours faithfully,

Ken Chaplin,

(Recording Secretary to the Special Committee)

Mr. Wynter's replied on May 4 as follows:

"G"

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"G"

4th May, 1977

Mr. Ken Chaplin,
Recording Secretary to the
Special Committee,
The Press Association of Jamaica,
22a Old Hope Road,
Kingston 5.

Dear Mr. Chaplin,

Your letter of May 4 has just been seen.

Thank you for sending the letter of March 30 from the ministers which contrary to your letters did not (and could not) refer to any publication in the Gleaner of April 1.

I repeat our view that the proper place for any follow-up to this is with the Caribbean Press Council which has an established procedure for dealing with complaints against the media.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

H.L. Wynter
Editor.

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Minister Before Committee
~~History of Events~~

On May 10, 1977, the Honourable Arnold Bertram, Minister of Culture & Information appeared before the Committee. Mr. Bertram was informed of the suggestion in Mr. Wynter's letter that his complaint be referred to the Caribbean Press Council. Mr. Bertram said it was his view that the Press Association of Jamaica is the proper organisation to which his complaint should be made and he wished the Association to deal with the matter. Mr. Bertram was then questioned on the substance of his complaint. He denied categorically that he had "acquired Mr. L.C McKenzie's Cherry Gardens mansion" as alleged by the Listening Post item of the Gleaner dated March 28, 1977. He further categorically denied the allegation contained in the same item that "he was reproved in no uncertain fashion by his colleague Dr. D.K. Duncan on the ground that their capitalist enemies would point to it as evidence of high living incompatible with the socialist life-style". Members of the Committee later and separately questioned Dr. D.K. Duncan on the specific point of having allegedly 'reproved' his colleague. Dr. Duncan branded the allegation as totally false. Mr. Bertram further informed the Committee that the only property he owned was the three-bedroom house at 47 University Crescent, in which he and his family lives, and which he bought from Mr. O.K Melhado for \$40,000. A subsequent Listening Post item in the April 1, 1977 issue of the Gleaner, purporting to correct the earlier item of March 28th, merely compounds the matter by stating that Dr. Duncan's 'reproving' of Mr. Bertram took place two years earlier than alleged in the March 28 item when 'Mr. Bertram acquired Mr. Jim Lim's (not Mr. McKenzie's) former home at University Crescent. Mr. Bertram insists that there had been no reproof of any kind in connection with his acquiring of a home; there was no 'reproof' as originally alleged in the March 28th item, and there was no 'reproof' two years earlier as alleged in the supposed correction in the April item. Indeed, the April 1st item perpetrates another falsehood by alleging that Mr. Bertram acquired his home at University Crescent from Mr. Jim Lim; the fact is that he bought it from Mr. O.K Melhado, a colleague with whom he works. During the questioning it came out that the P.M's Press Secretary had communicated with the Gleaner editor about these complaints.

Later on May 10, 1977, the Honourable Dr. D.K. Duncan, Minister of Mobilization appeared before the Committee. He too was informed of Mr. Wynter's suggestion that the complaint be referred to the Caribbean Press Council. Dr. Duncan's view was that this a straightforward Jamaican matter which was capable of resolution by the Press Association of Jamaica without any reference to any external authority and he therefore wanted the Press Association to investigate and pronounce on the complaints made to it by Mr. Bertram and himself.

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Under questioning Dr. Duncan denied the allegation contained in the Listening Post item of the Gleaner of March 28 that his house at Bridgeport was up for sale and that he was moving up to Billy Dunn. He also repudiated as mischievous the suggestion contained in the Listening Post item of the Gleaner of April 1st that: "D.K. Duncan has not yet moved to Billy Dunn. Apparently there have been no satisfactory responses yet to the ad offering his Bridgeport house for sale". Dr. Duncan provided the Committee with copies of his declaration of assets.

On the basis of the information from the two complaining Ministers the Committee asked for and recieved a statement from Mr. Claude Robinson, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister, on his telephone conversation on the matter with the Editor of the Gleaner. We set out Mr. Robinson's statement in its entirety...

"H"

FINDINGS

Since the editor of the Gleaner has, indirectly and by inference, questioned the competence of the Press Association of Jamaica (and therefore any committee appointed by it) to investigate and report on the complaints made to it by Ministers Duncan and Bertram this Committee wishes to put on record the fact that there is precedent for such an investigation by the Press Association of Jamaica. During the tenure of Mr. Clifton Neita as President of the Press Association of Jamaica Mr. V.B Grant, then Attorney-General of Jamaica, in 1970 complained to the Executive of the Press Association of Jamaica on some matter published in the Gleaner. The Executive of the day thereupon set up a committee to investigate the matter. Please see Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of the Press Association of Jamaica dated January 5, 1970.

The Press Association of Jamaica is not an affiliate of the Caribbean Press Council and is therefore not bound by, nor obliged to adhere to, its Memorandum of Operations and Procedures,

It is the view of the Committee that as the universally recognised long established, and time-honoured orgainsation of professional journalists in Jamaica the Press Association of Jamaica must not compromise its sovereign right to act as the primary forum to which Jamaican citizens can make their complaints if and when they feel unfairly dealt with by any section of the Jamaican news media. The high principle of sovereignty is involved here and the Committee urges most strongly that the Executive underscores that principle in any public comment it chooses to make on this particular aspect of the matter.

On the substance of the complaints of the two Ministers the Committee finds as follows:

- a) The Listening Post allegation of March 28 that Mr. Arnold Bertram had acquired Mr. L.C. McKenzie's

Cherry Gardens Mansion is totally false.

- b) The allegation in the same item that Dr. Duncan had reprimanded Mr. Bertram over the acquisition is totally false
- c) The allegation in the second paragraph of the same Listening Post item that Dr. Duncan was selling his Bridgeport house and moving up to Billy Dunn is totally false
- d) The apparent corrections printed in paragraph three of the Listening Post column of April 1 st only compounds the falsehoods listed above, ie;
- i) Dr. Duncan reprimanded his colleague two years earlier This is false
- ii) It was Mr. Lim's, not Mr. McKenzie's house, that Mr. Bertram bought. This, too, is false
- iii) Dr. Duncan had not yet moved to Billy Dunn because he had not yet sold his Bridgeport house This, too, is false & misleading

The facts, as ascertained by the Committee, are set out in the section above headed history of events and by the documents provided as well as by the statement made by the Press Secretary to the Prime Minister. On the basis of these facts it is the finding of this Committee that:

The statements and allegations made about Mr. Arnold Bertram and Dr. D.K. Duncan in paragraphs one and two of the Gleaner column Listening Post dated March 28, and paragraph 3 of the Gleaner column Listening Post of April 1 st, 1977, do not adhere to the principles of fair and factual reporting

RECOMMENDATIONS

In their appearances before the Committee both of the Ministers made it clear that they regarded the published matter about which they complained as politically motivated attempt to damage their public reputations as politicians and socialists of integrity. It would have been extremely helpful if your Committee had been able to ask questions of the author or authors of this column on this particular aspect of the matter. But there was no way we could do this as the Editor of the Gleaner chose not to co-operate and the ~~anonymity~~ identity of the author or authors was buried so deep or

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was so diffuse that we could not get at it. We therefore recommend that the Executive of the Press Association work out some formula whereby it becomes possible, if and when complaints of fact and of substance are made against anonymous contributors, for any investigating committee to be able to interview such contributors in secrecy and with an undertaking not to make public their identity. As things stand, anonymity can be and has been used as a kind of shield from behind which some gross acts of journalistic irresponsibility have been foisted on the society. The substance of the two Ministers' complaint is a case in point. And this can only damage our profession irreparably if it is not brought under some sort of control within the profession. One of the great concerns is that most of the anonymous contributors - ~~(allegedly all males hiding behind femininity)~~ ^{any} are really political operatives for whom the often hard grind of first checking facts from every possible angle before presenting them, and then presenting them as fairly as possible, are both subordinate to the playing of the political power game. And this can be as great a threat and danger to press freedom as any threat from any government. One of the ways to safeguard against this is to remove the smokescreen of anonymity and let the people know who are the professional journalists and who the political operatives using the media. Where the press is really free the need for anonymity is minimal. The press is free in Jamaica. The professional journalists here are prepared to put their names to what they write and what they say. We therefore urge that in addition to working out some way of making anonymous contributors at least answerable to the Press Association in case of complaints of substance, the Association also adopts a clearcut stand against anonymity in general, and against anonymity in particular when it is used as a shield from behind which personal attacks and attempts at character assassination are launched.

Finally, we urge the speeding up of the long overdue bringing into force of the registration of professional journalists and the standards and conditions for such registration. Until this is done our profession will go on facing the dangers of being used and abused by political operatives hiding behind the smokescreen of anonymity.

Listening Post

Facts and rumours

I hear that Listening Post is accused of boobing in respect of three rumours which were tracked down. When Listening Post checked about the rumour of a Russian Ambassador having been appointed; Listening Post received certain information to the contrary. It turned out that the rumour was half-right, and the fact half-wrong. The Russian Ambassador has been appointed according to Reuter, and his name announced in Moscow. He is Mr Yuri Volsky, but he resides in Mexico not in Jamaica! So residence? Not yet; at least not for the Ambassador. Still to know whether an Embassy is planned here with a Charge d'Affaires.

Another is the case of the distinguished Jamaican going to Unesco. Listening Post checked this and the information carried to the contrary was from the official horse's mouth, so to speak. Have we been wrong again, and is the rumour correct? We will see. But one reader is adamant that we have been led up the garden path.

The third concerned the alleged reproof of Mr Bertram by Dr Duncan. Here there was an inaccuracy. The incident took place two years ago when Mr Bertram acquired Mr Jim Lim's (not Mr McKenzie's) former home at University Crescent and moved there from his Mountain View Avenue Co-op house. I hear D.K. has not yet moved to Billy Dunn. Apparently there have been no satisfactory responses yet to the ad offering his Bridgeport house for sale.

I hear that when it comes to bureaucracy, Jamaica has still to catch up with the developed countries. Take France, for example. So well developed is the bureaucracy there that the following practical joke proved effective. An official-looking letter on Social Security headed paper was received by several old people in Grenoble, France. It said:

"According to our records, you have now reached your age limit. You are requested under Article 217 of the Law, to present yourself at the local cemetery so we can have you cremated. Bring a bag for your ashes."

One 70-year old lady became seriously ill on receiving the letter. Others became very frightened. The Police are still to find the prankster.

— The Listener.

date of acquisition



Housing Problem

I HEAR that when Mr. Arnold Bertram, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office, acquired Mr. L. C. McKenzie's Cherry Gardens mansion he was reproved in no uncertain fashion by his colleague Dr. D. K. Duncan on the ground that their capitalist enemies would point to it as evidence of high living incompatible with the socialist life style.

Some months ago there appeared in the *Cleaner* an advertisement stating "Doctor's house for sale in Edgewater". It turned out to have been Dr. Duncan's Bridgeport house which was being offered for sale. Why? D. K. was moving up — to Billy Dunn in fact.

Inconsistent? Well perhaps a little. But maybe the Minister of Mobilization has changed his mind about Socialist life styles or about the merit of certain kinds of criticism.

Tax rumours

I hear that the usual crop of rumours based on speculation have begun to go the rounds as the new budget period approaches. Some writers have written to *Listening Post* sending rumours heard about a wide range of taxes.

These are rumours which are difficult to track down because Government will not be able to discount any particular tax proposals being rumoured before budget day. Otherwise they would be disclosing budget secrets.

So cool it, and wait for the Minister's speech in Parliament. Alas, there will always be rumours on house tax, gas tax, property tax, this tax that tax the other tax. But only the Minister knows and he certainly cannot talk — until Budget Day! So let's be prepared, and wait. Time enough! Gird your loins — and keep cool!

— The Listener



PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

PRESIDENT

22a Old Hope Road,
Kingston.

SECRETARY

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
P.O. Box 20,
Red Hills P.O.
St. Andrew.

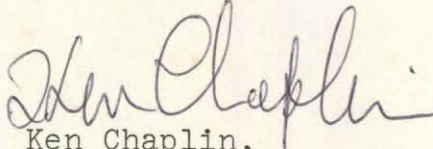
Dear Mr. Abrahams,

The Executive Committee of the Press Association of Jamaica at a meeting held on April 4, 1977 at the Press Club appointed you as a member of a special committee to:

- i. Investigate and report on statements published in the column "Listening Post" which appeared in the Daily Gleaner on March 28, 1977 and April 1, 1977, which were referred to the association in a letter of complaint dated March 30, 1977 from Honourable Dr. D.K. Duncan, Minister of National Mobilisation and Honourable Arnold Bertram, Minister of Culture and Information (attached hereto).
- ii. To ascertain if the statements are factual or incorrect and to find out what are the facts.
- iii. To determine whether the reports adhered to the principles of fair and factual reporting.

The Executive Committee would appreciate a report in two weeks. The first meeting of the committee is scheduled for 5 p.m. April 25 at the Press Club, 22a Old Hope Road. At this meeting a Chairman and a recording secretary will be selected.

Sincerely yours,


Ken Chaplin,
Hon. Secretary.



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

1 DEVON ROAD,

P.O. BOX 272,

KINGSTON 6, JAMAICA

March 30, 1977

The President
Press Association of Jamaica.

Dear Sirs:

It is with regret that we are forced to bring to the official attention of the Press Association of Jamaica a most slanderous report in Monday's issue of the Daily Gleaner in a column called Listening Post.

The column claimed that Arnold Bertram had acquired a Cherry Gardens mansion and that D. K. Duncan had "moved up to Billy Dunn."

This latest attack must be seen against a background of the fact that in recent weeks several Ministers have had to complain about Gleaner reporting which has consistently distorted statements made by these Ministers. The effect of these distortions is that the Gleaner's version of the statements end up approximating the Gleaner's viewpoint of the particular Ministers. In the cases where the Ministers have complained about inaccurate reporting, the Editor of the Gleaner simply appends a footnote saying that their reporters' notes confirm their version of what was said.

In addition to distortion of public statements, the Gleaner has also been inventing and printing outright lies about Ministers. For example, a recent columnist claimed, without a shred of evidence, that D. K. Duncan had imported (illegally) a new BMW motor car - (Colin Gregory, March 7, 1977). Such lies are calculated to damage characters and cast doubt on the political integrity of the Ministers involved.

Under normal circumstances, one would simply have written to the Gleaner to point out that the Listening Post allegations are lies. But we think the matter is more serious than that. Therefore, we are requesting the Press Association to conduct an independent investigation into the allegations contained in the column. You will find it is a lie to say that Arnold Bertram has "acquired L.C. McKenzie's Cherry Gardens mansion" or that D. K. Duncan has sold his Bridgeport house and has "moved up" to Billy Dunn.

...../2

Press Association of Jamaica.

March 30, 1977

The legal transfer and ownership of houses are matters of public record in Jamaica, and therefore, your Association can easily and quickly investigate the claims.

For the record, Arnold Bertram is the owner/occupier of a house on University Crescent (hardly a "Cherry Gardens Mansion") and D.K. Duncan is the owner/occupier of a house in Bridgeport.

We urge you to publish your findings and we also urge you to publicly denounce this so-called journalism as a politically inspired manoeuvre to cast doubt on our integrity and ideological consistency and further, to create disunity in the P.N.P.

Yours sincerely,

D.K. Duncan

.....
D. K. Duncan,
Minister of Mobilization &
Human Resource Development.

Arnold Bertram

.....
for Arnold Bertram,
Minister of Information & Culture
Office of the Prime Minister.

Copy: To all media.

CARIBBEAN PRESS COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM OF OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES

CARIBBEAN PRESS COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM OF OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES

1. The objectives of the Caribbean Press Council have been specified in preparatory documents of the Caribbean Publishing and Broadcasting Association and in the draft constitution of the Council as:

- (a) To maintain the character of the Caribbean media in accordance with the highest professional standards.
- (b) To consider complaints about the conduct of the media or the conduct of persons and organisations towards the media; to deal with those complaints in whatever manner might seem practical and appropriate and record resultant action.
- (c) To safeguard the role, character and freedom of the press.
- (d) To keep under review developments likely to restrict the supply of information of public interest and importance.

2. The above statement of objectives provides a general framework for the activities of the Council. It would be useful, however, to specify further the areas of involvement and the procedures to be adopted to achieve the above objectives.

- (Note: (i) The concepts of "standards in the media" and "freedom of the press" will be defined in the course of Council's deliberations.
- (ii) "The Press" means the news collection, reporting and analysis operations of the mass media of newspapers, magazines, radio, and television, and news agencies such as the Caribbean News Agency and Government Information Services.

3. Range of Activities

- (a) To consider (by way of established Council procedures) complaints about the collection, reporting and analysis of news by mass media organisations, both print and electronic, in the territories of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and the West Indies Associated States from any person, groups of persons or organisations in the territories.
- (b) To consider on its own initiative any issue or problem area related to the maintenance of press standards and the maintenance of press freedom in the territories listed above.
- (c) To consider complaints from any person, groups of persons or organisation(s) in the territories listed above about the action(s) of any other person, group of persons or organisations towards the print and electronic media organisation(s) in the territories, where such action(s) is claimed to threaten the freedom of the press or to lower standards in the media.
- (d) To consider, review and make recommendations to appropriate organisations, or act as it sees fit about the training needs of media professionals in view of the Council's concern with the maintenance of press standards in the media.
- (e) To consider, review, make recommendations to appropriate organisations or act as the Council sees fit on those research questions and needs relevant to maintaining standards in the media and freedom of the press.

4. Procedures for Processing Complaints

- (a) Any person (including Council members) or organisations, may submit a complaint to the Council.
- (b) A complaint must be filed within 90 days following the conduct, action, or publication of material being complained about.
- (c) The complaint should be submitted in writing to the Secretary, Caribbean Press Council, P.O. Box 79, Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica. Any member of the Council receiving a complaint should forward that complaint immediately to the Secretary.

- (d) A copy of the complaint should be sent at the same time to the media organisation in question by the complainant. If the complainant does not do so, the Council will so forward the complaint.
- (e) The media organisation in question is given an opportunity to respond directly to the complainant (with a copy of response sent to Council) or through the Council who will forward the response to the complainant. A response from the media organisation would normally be expected within four weeks.
- (f) If the complainant is satisfied with the response and action of the media organisation, the matter is so recorded, and no further action taken by the Council.
- (g) If the complainant is not satisfied with the response of the media organisation, the complaint is then submitted by Council to a local press or journalists association who will be asked to review the complaint, and comment on it. Council executive may request the local association to gather relevant information on the complaint. Council may also supplement the information-gathering process of the local association by other means.
- (h) Council executive will decide on appropriate measures for gathering information on a complaint, if possible through a local press association. One such measure would be to request a Council member or members to undertake an investigation of the complaint and to gather relevant information as indicated by Council executive. Council executive may also appoint sub-Committees of its membership to seek further information about a particular complaint. Wherever possible the committee's chairman should be a lay member.
- (i) The Secretary of the Council gathers together all responses, comments and relevant materials and prepares a brief on the complaint in consultation with the Chairman of the Council.
- (j) The brief on the complaint is then submitted to all members of the Council for study.

- (k) At the next meeting of the Council the complaint is considered and action taken on it. Council may decide that further information is required in which case a decision on the matter is postponed to the next meeting.
- (l) If Council reaches a decision, the decision will be written up by the Chairman of the Council and submitted to the media organisation in question to the Caribbean press for publication, and to the complainant.
- (m) Council may decide that a minority opinion on a complaint should also be made public.
- (n) The procedure for processing complaints from the media about the actions of persons or organisations towards the press will be similar to the above.
- (o) Council will meet at least twice per year to consider complaints.
- (p) Members of the public will be advised that in submitting complaints they should provide as much supporting information as is possible (e.g. press clippings of the story in question, or the dates and times of broadcasts in question.)
- (q) Council may in due course prepare a Code of Ethics for Journalists which may be used as a guide in Council's review of complaints. In the meantime Council will review complaints on the basis of its perception of good press practice.
- (r) The Council may not in its discretion consider a complaint (1) if court or administrative action or arbitration based on the same subject matter is pending, or (2) if it requests and a party refused to sign a waiver of his or her right to bring such action in the event that the Council considers the complaint and issues a written decision on it, or (3) if it requests and a party refuses to sign a waiver of libel against anyone who provides the Council with information concerning the complaint, against the Council, and against the media for publication of information acquired by the Council concerning the complaint or included in the Council's report.

5. Procedures for Considering Other Matters Related to Press Freedom and Standards in the Media.

- (a) Any person (including Council members) or organisation may bring to the attention of the Council a matter related to safeguarding press freedom and/or maintaining press standards.
- (b) Council executive will decide on what further information is desired and adopt its own procedures for gathering such information.
- (c) A brief on the matter will be subsequently prepared following the information-gathering process, and will be sent to all Council members for study,
- (d) At the next meeting Council will consider the matter and arrive at a decision or request further action. The results of Council's deliberations will be made public.
- (e) Council members may request a special meeting of Council to deal with urgent matter according to the rules of the Council for holding special meetings.

FEB. 24, 1977

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CODE OF ETHICS -- PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

Journalists in Jamaica have adopted a Code of Ethics as a guideline.

The Code of Ethics is as follows:

The profession of journalism in Jamaica has as its fundamental objectives those of serving the collective interests of all the people of the country and affirming and defending human rights, and, in general, all honest causes. To help achieve this aim, the Press Association of Jamaica has formulated a Code of Conduct or Rules of Behaviour for the Press, Radio and TV in Jamaica and is doing so, wishes most of all, to remind members that the rights, privileges and freedoms enjoyed by them are only exercisable on the understanding that the general public interests and the good of the country is and remains paramount and where there is conflict between the news media's or journalist's rights and the community's interest, the ~~and~~ the latter shall prevail.

Members are hereby enjoined to refrain from:

- (a) writing or publishing immorality and/or obscenity.
- (b) writing or publishing vulgarity aimed at individuals, institutions or groups, as well as unwarranted attacks on their personal dignity, honour or prestige.
- (c) writing or publishing exposes¹ on the private lives of individuals not in public life or upon matters which are not in the public interest, but which constitutes unwarranted intrusion.
- (d) insulting or libelling individuals, institutions or groups.

- (e) making offensive references to an individual's race, colour, faith, sex or nationality or indulging in any discrimination in relation thereto.
- (f) writing or publishing news of information which is based on fact or slanting of selecting the news to give any, particular bias to serve any particular interest.
- (g) publishing confidential statements unless clearly in the public interest.
- (h) revealing or betraying the secrecy of sources of information of news.
- (i) while giving publicity to the properly expressed dissent from Government policy and actions and to the peaceful and constitutional methods of affecting changes, to avoid writing or publishing matter which may be subversive or harmful to the unity of the people or likely to lead to violence or to a breach of the peace.



PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

PRESIDENT

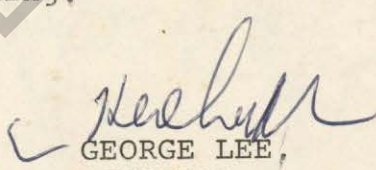
SECRETARY

February 1, 1977.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
c/o R.JR.

The Press Association's training programme which had to be suspended because of the elections, resumes on ~~February 23~~, 1977. We are requesting that you be kind enough to participate in a panel discussion "THE ROLE OF THE JOURNALIST IN A CHANGING JAMAICA".

The session starts at 7:30 p.m. on the 4th floor the Daily Gleaner building.


GEORGE LEE,
CONVENOR.

Wed. March 16th

Press Club
22^A Old Hope Rd.

PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA TRAINING PROGRAMME
4TH FLOOR DAILY GLEANER BUILDING EAST & NORTH
STREETS, SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

7 - 9 p.m.

Origin and development of the
mass media in Jamaica.
Mr. Rupert Lewis, Lecturer UWI.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

7 - 9 p.m.

Jamaica and International
Economic Systems.
Dr. Don Robotham, Lecturer UWI

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

7 - 9 p.m.

Panel discussion on - the role of
the journalist in a changing
Jamaica.

Speakers:

Terry Smith
Peter Abrahams
Godfried Tchamlesso

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

7 - 9 p.m.

The Jamaican Economy - the way
forward.
Dr. Paul Robertson, Lecturer UWI

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

10 12 noon

Sub-editing by
Calvin Bowen

1 3 p.m.

Feature Writing
Wenty Bowen

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

7 - 9 p.m.

Journalism as a profession,
Dr. Theodore Sealey

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

8:00 p.m.

CLOSING CEREMONY
PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES
PARTY.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL
STATUS FOR JOURNALISTS

The Special Committee set up at the annual general meeting held at the Jamaica Public Service Auditorium on Monday, August 9, 1976 to deal with Professional Status for Journalists now reports to the Special General Meeting (to be held at Curphy Place, Swallowfield on Sunday, November 28, 1976, beginning at 11 a.m.) as follows:-

1. A Professional Board should be established.
2. Members of the Board should be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Press Association of Jamaica for a period of two years and should be eligible for re-appointment.
3. The Board should consist of seven persons as follows: a representative from the Mass Communications Institute at the UWI, two senior journalists, one each from the print and electronic media, the Association's Legal Adviser; two junior journalists, one each from the print and electronic media; and a photographer.
4. No member of the Executive Committee with the exception of the Legal Adviser should sit on the Board. The Legal Adviser should not have a vote on the Board.
5. All recommendations of the Board should become effective only when they are ratified by the Executive Committee.

6. The immediate responsibility of the Board should be the improvement of the ethical standards of journalism and dealing with breaches of professional ethics.
7. The present Code of Ethics of the Association should be re-adopted and sub-paragraph (d) should be amended to read:- "insulting or defaming individuals, institutions or groups, although the fearless pursuit of truth, in the public interest (particularly through imaginative reporting) must remain a principal object of journalism."
8. Any member who has been disciplined will have the right of appeal to a special general meeting or annual general meeting of the Association.

The Committee recognises that in order to have these recommendations effected it may be necessary to amend the present Constitution of the Association.

The four meetings of the Committee were attended as follows:-

Frank Hill4
Fitzroy Nation....4
Terry Smith2
Patrick Smikle--- 2
Ewart Walters..... 1(H_e left for Canada in Sept.)
George Lee(co-opted) ...4

KEN CHAPLIN
HON. SECRETARY
NOVEMBER 15, 1976

CODE OF ETHICS

The profession of journalism in Jamaica has as its fundamental objectives those of serving the collective interests of all the people of the country and affirming and defending human rights, and, in general, all honest causes. To help achieve this aim, the Press Association of Jamaica has formulated a Code of Conduct or Rules of Behaviour for the Press, Radio and TV in Jamaica and in doing so, wishes most of all, to remind members that the rights, privileges and freedoms enjoyed by them are only exercisable on the understanding that the general public interests and the good of the country are and remain paramount and where there is conflict between the news media's or journalists' rights and the community's interest, the latter shall prevail.

Members are hereby enjoined to refrain from:

- (a) writing or publishing immorality and/or obscenity;
- (b) writing or publishing vulgarity aimed at individuals, institutions or groups, as well as unwarranted attacks on their personal dignity, honour or prestige;
- (c) Writing or publishing exposés on the private lives of individuals not in public life or upon matters which are not in the public interest, but which constitute unwarranted intrusion;
- (d) insulting or libelling individuals, institutions or groups;
- (e) making offensive reference to an individual's race, colour, faith, sex or nationality or indulging in any discrimination in relation thereto;
- (f) Writing or publishing news or information which is not based on fact or slanting or selecting the news to give any particular bias to serve any particular interest;
- (g) Publishing confidential statements unless clearly in the public interest;
- (h) revealing or betraying the secrecy of sources of information or news;
- (i) while giving publicity to the properly expressed dissent from Government policy and actions and to the peaceful and constitutional methods of affecting changes, to avoid writing or publishing matter which may be subversive or harmful to the unity of the people or likely to lead to violence or to a breach of the peace.

PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA,

22a Old Hope Road,
Kingston 5.

August 23, 1976.

Dear Members,

Notice is hereby given that the following amendments to the rules of the Press Club of Jamaica will be moved at a special General Meeting of the Press Association of Jamaica to be held at Curphy Place, South Avenue, Swallowfield, Kingston 5, on Sunday, November 28, 1976, beginning at 11 a.m.

Ken Chaplin
Ken Chaplin,
Secretary.

THE PRESS CLUB OF JAMAICA
AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- Rule 3 (a) "In good standing" to be inserted after "Jamaica" in line 2
- Rule 3 (b) (c) (d) to become one clause and numbered 3 (b) and shall be amended by substituting "Four Dollars" for "One Guinea" in line 5 of 3 (c) and "Ten Dollars" for "Three Guineas" in line 1 of 3 (d)
- Rule 3 (e) To be numbered 3(a).
- Rule 3 (f) "Members suspended from the Press Association are debarred from enjoying the facilities or privileges of the Club" to be inserted after "Club" in line 5 and the Rule renumbered 3 (d).
- Rule 3 (g) (h) to renumbered 3 (e) and 3 (f) respectively
- Rule 4 The words "They shall be:- President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer" to be deleted.
- Rule 5 To be deleted entirely.
- Rule 6 To be renumbered 5 and "3:p.m. and 2 a.m." substituted for "11:a.m. and 11:p.m." in line 2.
- Rule 7 To be renumbered 6
- Rule 8 The existing Rule to be renumbered 7 and replaced by the following:-
These rules, or any of them may be amended at a special or annual general meeting of the association provided thirty days notice is given prior to the Meeting and any such amendment is supported by a majority of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting."

PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

22a Old Hope Road,
Kingston 5.

August 23, 1976.

Dear Member,

Notice is hereby given that the following amendments to the constitution of Press Association of Jamaica will be moved at a special general meeting of the Association to be held at Curphy Place, South Avenue, Swaffowfield, Kingston 5 on Sunday, November 28, 1976, beginning at 11a.m.

Ken Chaplin
Ken Chaplin
Secretary

PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

AMMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Section 4 (b) "Two dollars" to be submitted for "Five Shillings" in line 6.

Section 5 (3) "which shall be held before the end of July each year" to be added after "Association" in line 2.

Section 5 (7) The following ^{new} clause shall be added "Elections for the post of President shall be conducted at the annual general meeting. However nominations for this office must be made in writing by the end of March of each year and members advised as soon thereafter as possible."

Section 5 (8) The following new clause shall be added "No member shall be eligible for the office of President who has not served the immediate preceding year as a member of the Executive Committee."

Section 5 (9) The following new clause shall be added "No member shall serve more than three consecutive terms as President except authorised by a special resolution passed by a simple majority of three quarters of the members present at the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place."

Section 5 (10) The following new clause shall be added "Voting for each post at the annual general meeting shall be by secret ballot each member having one vote provided that members absent from the meeting shall be allowed to vote by proxy appointed under hand and the proxy document duly stamped."

Section 5 (11) The following new clause shall be added "Life membership may be granted to members for meritorious service to the Association and/or to the profession of Journalism by a resolution passed by a two thirds majority of the members present at an Annual General Meeting."

Section 7 (2) "for misconduct or any other breach of these or the Press Club's rules" to be added after "Association" in line 4.

Section 8 (1) "Two dollars" to be substituted for "five shillings" in line 2 and "Ten dollars" to be substituted for "fifteen shillings" in line 3.

Section 8 (2) Ten dollars" to be substituted for "one Guinea" in line 2.

Section 8 (3) "30 Clear days" to be substituted for " 60 Days" in line 3.

Section 8 (4) The words "within 60 days of becoming non-financial" to be deleted from line 3.

Section 13 (a) The following new clause shall be added:

AUDITOR

"The Executive Committee at its first meeting after election shall appoint an auditor to the Association and there shall be an annual audit of the Trustees's accounts to be presented to the annual general meeting each year.

Section 13 (b) The following new clause shall be added:

TRUSTEES

There shall be not more than three nor less than two Trustees appointed by the annual general meeting whenever there be a vacancy or vacancies in their ranks.

It is acknowledged and recorded that the existing Trustees are Theodore Eustace Sealy, CBE, J.P. and Headlāy Powell Jacobs, O.B.E., J.P. Trustees are appointed for life but they may resign their office by notice under hand to the Executive Committee.

Section 14 (1) The heading "DISSOLUTION" to be added above this clause.

Section 14 (2) "turned over to a body with similar objectives" to be substituted for "donated to local charity" in line 4.

Section 15 "thirty" to be substituted for "sixty" in line 5/

PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

MINUTES OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF NOV. 28, 1976.

Those present were:-

Elean Thomas, Errol Harvey, Karl Campbell, Fitzroy Nation, Errol Lee, Clive Bryan, Owen James, Monica Mason, David Ebanks, Veron Witter, Leslie Burrell, V. Matross-McIntosh, Canute James, Patrick Smikle, Elaine Wallace, Ben Brodie, Hopeton Dunn, Colin Campbell, Joseph Perkins, Margaret Lescene, Claudine Boothe, Harris Dias, William Haughton, V.G. Bailey, Frank Hill, Ken Chaplin, and Earl Witter.

(2) The following resolutions was passed:- "Whereas there is dire need for journalists in the Latin American region to unite in the interest of the profession and the region; and whereas the aims and objectives of the Latin American Federation of Journalists are in keeping with the interests of Jamaican journalists be it resolved that the Press Association of Jamaica seeks affiliation in the Latin American Federation of Journalists".

This resolution was carried after long and intense discussion. Those who opposed the resolution put forward the argument that the Press Association as a professional organisation should not be affiliated to the L.A.F.J. as it was known to be political.

(3) Amendments to the Constitution of the Press Association

- (a) All applications to the Association shall be accompanied by an entrance fee of \$2.00. Formerly the fee was \$1.
- (b) Added to Section 5 new paragraph (7) to read" voting for each post at the annual general meeting shall be by secret ballot each member having one vote.
- (c) Honorary members shall make an annual donation of not less than \$25.
- (d) The annual subscriptions is now \$5.
- (e) Members whose subscriptions have not been paid within 30 days after due date on July 1 shall be deemed and declared non-financial
- (f) Annual general meetings shall be called before the end of July each year except for unforeseen circumstances or lack of a quorum. If the meeting is postponed another meeting must be called within 30 days.
- (g) At the first meeting after election the Executive Committee must appoint an auditor to the Association.

/2....

The proposed amendment of the section of the constitution on Trustees was deferred until the Executive Committee investigated the details of arrangements re Trustees. A report on these investigations must be made to a subsequent general meeting.

(4) Amendments to the Press Club rules

- (a) Members suspended from the Press Association will be debarred from enjoying the facilities or privileges of the Press Club.
- (b) Applications for membership must be accompanied by an entrance fee of \$4.
- (c) Annual Subscription fee will be \$10
- (d) The Press Club will now be open from 3 p.m. to 2 a.m.
- (5) A special general meeting is to be called before the end of March 1977 to continue discussions on the recommendations re establishment of Professional Status of Journalists and the Code of Ethics. The matter was deferred because over five hours were spent on other matters and most of those present had to leave.
- (6) The second part of the special general meeting was held on March 20, 1977.

Those present were:-

Pat Belinfanti, Fitzroy Nation, Paulette McDonald, Joy Scott, Jennifer Ffrench, Mervyn Morris, Elean Thomas, Patrick Smikle, Rupert Lewis, Charles Kinkead, Malcolm Thompson, Monica Mason, Roy Chakes, Flo O'Connor, Earl Witter, Robert Fray, Matross-McIntosh, Denzil Dunkley, Carole James, Elaine Wallace, Jimmy Lamonte, Detha Tai, Hopeton Dunn, Jennifer Brown, Ken Williams, Fred Wilmot, Granville Newell, Garfield Myers, Tony Fuller, Ken Chaplin, Sheldon McDonald, Veta Thomas, Tony Ray, Claudine Boothe, Wyatt Bryce, Cynthia Wilmot, Frank Hill, Carol Lawes, Harris Dias, and David Ebanks.

- (7) The report of the Committee on professional status for journalists was considered and after extensive discussion was amended to read as follows:-

Amended report of the Committee on Professional Status for Journalists

1. A Professional Board shall be established.
2. Voting members of the Board shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Press Association of Jamaica for a period of two years and should be eligible for re-appointment.
3. The Board shall consist of seven persons as follows: five working journalists, at least one each from the print and electronic media, the Association's Legal Adviser and a representative appointed by the Mass Communications

Institute. The latter two shall have no vote.

4. No member of the Executive Committee with the exception of the Legal Adviser shall sit on the Board.
5. All recommendations of the Board shall become effective only when they are ratified by the Executive Committee.
6. The immediate responsibility of the Board shall be the improvement of the ethical standards of journalism and dealing with breaches of professional ethics by individuals or media institutions.
7. Any member who has been disciplined will have the right of appeal to a tribunal consisting of three persons - one representative of the member being disciplined, one appointed by the Executive Committee and one agreed upon by both the member and the Executive, who shall be chairman. The recommendations of the tribunal shall be final.
8. The Committee also recognised in its report that it may be necessary to amend the Association's Constitution to effect their recommendations.
9. Members of the Committee were Frank Hill, Fitzroy Nation, Terry Smith, Patrick Smikle, Ewart Walters (who left the country in Sept. 1976) and George Lee who was co-opted.
10. The meeting decided that a review of the Association's Code of Ethics should be the first assignment of the Board and that the Constitution for the Board should be formulated by the Executive Committee.
11. On the matter of the Trust Funds the Legal Adviser reported that the Trust Deeds had not been located as a fire at the home of Mr. Clifton Neita had destroyed these documents which were being kept there. The legal Adviser is to search for copies of these documents at the titles office.
12. If no copies are found a living person who is aware of the contents of the documents will be approached to say what these are in an affidavit. The deeds would then be made and properly deposited. A full report on the progress of these arrangements is to be made at the next annual general meeting.
13. The legal adviser also reported that the Association had \$80,000 in trust.
14. The meeting approved the following statement on government proposals to put RJR in local hands:-

Statement

" The Press Association of Jamaica welcomes the recent announcement by government of negotiations to remove the ownership and control of Radio Jamaica Ltd. from foreign hands.

We believe however that RJR's full potential in reflecting the interests of the majority of the people of Jamaica would not be realised if through its ownership, structure and organisation the station was to be controlled by a local minority.

It is our view that such a vital educational resource should be under the control and reflect the interest of the majority of the people in Jamaica. Local ownership would also end the outflow of foreign exchange from RJR for payments of profits abroad.

The Association holds the view that RJR should be able to fulfill its very important role as a means of social and educational upliftment for the people in the country. It should also provide an opportunity for the workers at that station to develop their creative abilities, technical skills and skills in media administration.

There would also need to be rationalisation of programming in such a way that as well as providing entertainment RJR could provide educational information on such areas as agriculture and health care and could complement the JAMAL programme.

The Press Association through its Executive intends to meet with government to discuss concrete proposals on the ownership, control and organisational structure of RJR."

15. The meeting passed a resolution that "PAJ protests the highly damaging and dishonest article published by Newsweek magazine and that this protest be released to local and overseas news media, the Newsweek Editorial Board and the U.S. Ambassador in Jamaica.

16. The meeting was ajourned.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
PRESS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

HELD ON AUGUST 9TH 1976.

The Annual General Meeting of the Press Association of Jamaica was held at the Jamaica Public Service Company Auditorium on Monday, 9th August, 1976.

Present were:

Hector Bernard, President (Chairman), Maurice McFarlane, Trevor Calame, Bill Carter, Gurney Bedford, Leslie Burrell, Pat Belinfanti, Pat Jones, Bill Haughton, Jeanette Mowatt, Noel Heron, Cyrene Tomlinson, Beverly Newell, Clive Bryan, Jayne Campbell, Joy Scott, Ken Williams, Keith Swaby, F.N. Fox, I.B. McGeary, T.K. Whyte, Emsley Pearson, Charles Kinkead, Phyllis Thomas, Clarence Brodie, Livingston McLaren, Tony Fuller, Fitzroy Nation, Tess Thomas, Frank Hill, Carl Wint, Patrick Smikle, Trevor Fearon, Peter Mid-Wynter, Leroy Thompson, Trevor Wilkinson, George Ruddock, Owen James, Harris Dias, Angela Archer, Lolita Tracey, Veta Thomas, Vincent Tulloch, Salomie Rowe, Audrey Wright, Wilton Dyer, Canute James, Cynthia Wilmot, Malcom Thompson, M.E. Fisher, G. Tchamlesso, St. J. Hamilton, Francisco Gonzales, Errol Lee, Margaret Lecense, Ken Jones, Hopeton Dunn, Earl Witter, Elaine Wallace, Terry Smith, Norma Soas, Ewart Walters, J.C. Proute, Claire Forrester, Neville Toyloy, Joseph Perkins, H.G. Samuels, Leroy Brown, Trevor McFarlane, Doreen Brown, Carol Lawes, Calvin Bowen, Charles Balfour, Joseph McPherson, Victor Bailey, Howard Brandt, Sylvia Lee, Percy Miller, and Errol Gibbs.

Apologies for absence were tendered on behalf of Sealy, Richard Ashenheim, Clifton Neita, Kathleen Johnson and Gloria Maragh.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd January, 1975, having been circulated, were taken as read, and were confirmed and seconded on the motion of Messrs J.C. Proute and William Haughton respectively.

MATTERS ARISING

1. Professional status of Journalists - A Committee of five (5) was named to consider the proposal and make its recommendations at a special general meeting which is to be called within ninety (90) days of the annual general meeting.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE:

Mr. Frank Hill

Mr. Terry Smith

Mr. Ewart Walters

Mr. Patrick Smikle

Mr. Fitzroy Nation

2. CARIBBEAN PRESS COUNCIL -

In reply to a question from Mr. J.C. Proute regarding the Associations stand on the matter of the council, the president, Mr. Hector Bernard stated that the executive had not changed its views.

The Executive still felt that the Council could do no more than comment on the state of the press in member countries, and that there would be no practical advantage to the Press Association of Jamaica becoming a member.

The Secretary's report was adopted on a motion by Mr. Frank Hill, seconded by Mr. I.B. McGreary.

The attention of the meeting was brought to the fact that a tape recorder was being used. The person using the recorder was not officially representing any of the News Media, and was requested to turn off the recorder.

Following the address by the President Mr. Bernard, the meeting placed on record its appreciation for his service.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The report was read by the treasurer, Mr. Maurice McFarlane, and adopted on a motion by Mrs. Cynthia Wilmot seconded by Mr. Victor Bailey.

Miss Elaine Wallace brought to the attention of the meeting a document under the heading "Private Sector Organization of Jamaica" which had the Press Association of Jamaica listed as a member.

The following resolution which was proposed by Mr. Pat Bellinfanti and seconded by Mr. Pat Smikle, was adopted. "Whereas it has been brought to the attention of this meeting that a document headed Private Sector Organization of Jamaica Election Ballot for Member Associations' Representatives to Council, which lists a member of organizations including the Press Association of Jamaica, and whereas it may be misleading to persons coming in possession of that document or organization, and whereas some individual members of the Association have been circulated by the PSOJ. Be it resolved that the Press Association of Jamaica deny any involvement in or intention of involvement through membership in the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

President - Canute James
1st Vice President - Ben Brodie
2nd Vice President - George Lee
Secretary - Ken Chaplain
Assistant Secretary - Elaine Wallace

Treasurer William Haughton Hon. Legal Adviser - Earl Witter.

The four additional members of the Executive Committee elected were Terry Smith, Errol Lee, Fitzroy Nation, and Patrick Smikle.

The special general meeting will also deal with the following:

- (1) Amendments to the Constitution.
- (2) Amendments to Press Club's rules.
- (3) Application to Latin American Federation of Journalists.

Memo being no further business the meeting adjourned.

23rd January, 1963.

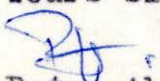
Mr. Trevor L. A. Blake,
84 Mountain View Avenue,
Kingston 2.

Dear Mr. Blake,

Thank you for your letter of January 7 containing your ideas about forming a junior journalist club. I think your best course of action would be to write to the Secretary of the Jamaica Press Association setting out your proposal exactly as you set them out to me. He will then put these before the executive committee of the Press Association and I am certain that something useful will emerge from that. The Secretary of the Jamaica Press Association is Mr. Ken Chaplin and his address is:-

c/o Government Public Relations
Office,
124 East Street,
Kingston.

Yours sincerely,


Peter Abrahams.

PA/ul.

84 Mountain View Ave.,
Kingston 2.

January 7, 1963.

Mr. Peter Abrahams,
c/o J. A. C.,
P. O. Box 100,
Kingston 10.

Dear Mr. Abrahams,

As it is an obvious fact that Jamaica needs more trained Journalists I being of the ambition to be a Journalist think it wise to consult you being a distinguished Journalist for your advice on forming a Junior Journalists Club. I don't know what are the requisites to form such a club and therefore I am asking you for some advice on this matter which means so much to me as this would prove a first step to the career I love so much.

At present I am a student of Kingston Technical High School where I will be completing a 4 year's course and a 2 year's course in Commerce, that is to say the final 2 years are devoted to a specific Course. The Commerce Course at the above mentioned school includes, English Language, Spanish, Economics, Commerce, Shorthand, Typing, Office Routine and Commercial Mathematics. A most essential subject for this career English Literature is eliminated from the list because students think it a waste of time teaching it and opposed.

Looking forward to an early reply,

I am,

Yours respectfully,

Trevor L. A. Blake

T. A. Blake.

Jamaica Press Association

c/o Spotlight Newsmagazine,
95 Harbour St., Kingston.

OFFICERS:—

T. E. SEALY, C.B.E., J.P.,
President

REV. G. F. HEFFERNAN, S.J.,
1st. Vice-President

CLIFTON NEITA,
2nd. Vice-President

KEN CHAPLIN,
Secretary

V. G. BAILEY,
Treasurer

VAN SHEWMAN-REID,
Asst. Secretary

The Editor,
West Indian Economist,
164 Harbour St.,
Kingston.

Dear Sir:

The Jamaica Press Association has been asked by National Sports to assist in the allocation of seats to Press & Radio for the purpose of covering the Central American and Caribbean Games in August.

National Sports wishes to know what is the maximum number of badges your organization will require for covering the Games on any one occasion as well as the maximum number of accredited reporters and/or photographers you will have attending.

The available space is strictly for working journalists. This means that only those Press & Radio representatives actually assigned for coverage will be accommodated.

However, for purposes of flexibility, you may request accreditation for a number of representatives over and above the number which will be assigned at any given time.

Therefore National Sports is asking us to get from your organization (i) the number of representatives you will need to cover the events from day to day and (ii) the total number of your staff who will be engaged in covering the events from beginning to end.

National Sports is prepared to accept accreditation for (ii) and will issue badges for (i). Thus, it will be in the publishers own interest to ensure that badges are given to those members of their staff for coverage on any particular day.

Please let us know your requirement immediately so that we can make our recommendations to National Sports,

Sincerely yours,

Ken Chaplin
Secretary.

Jamaica Press Association,
c/o Spotlight,
95 Harbour Street,
Kingston.

June 8, 1962.

Dear Member:

Hebe Spraul, a free lance journalist from Britain, will give a talk on the British Press to members of the Association and Club and their guests at the Junior Library, Tom Redcam Drive, on Monday, July 16, beginning at 8 p.m.

She is coming to Jamaica on a lecture tour sponsored jointly by the British Council and the Jamaica Social Welfare Commission.

The talk by her is being arranged by the Press Association.

Please be on time.

Sincerely yours


Ken Chaplin
Secretary.

The Jamaica Press Association,
C/O Spotlight Newsmagazine,
95 Harbour Street,
KINGSTON.

June 6, 1962.

Dear Member,

Notice is hereby given that Annual Meeting of the Jamaica Press Association will be held in the Lecture Hall of the Institute of Jamaica (East and Tower Streets) on Monday, July 23, 1962, beginning at 4.30 p.m. for the purpose of receiving the Annual Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer, electing new Officers and dealing with any other business pertaining to the Association generally.

Your attention is drawn to Section 8 (Paragraph 4) of the revised constitution (1955):-

"Subscription fee shall become due on the first day of July each year. Members whose subscriptions have not been paid within 60 days after the due date shall be deemed and declared non-financial and shall be ineligible to receive the benefits or to be accorded the privileges of this Association".

.....*Ken Chaplin*.....

Ken Chaplin,
Secretary.