

Grenadian Consul explains revolution

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the same thing. It wasn't until around the mid-1950's that we had adult suffrage in Grenada. Before that, the only persons who could vote, were persons who owned land. We had what you call a Legislative Counsel and the Executive Counsel. The Executive Counsel was nominated by the Governor or whoever, and they were the senior governing body in the country.

ted coming out, all we were hearing was Gairy candidates winning seats. By 1972, in Grenada, there were two organizations that were formed; Map, which means Movement of Assemblies for the People, and Jewel, which means Joint Endeavor for Welfare Education and Liberation. And when that happened in '72, the two organizations, er...it was necessary for them to merge. Now what we have is a new JEWEL movement.

in Grenada and the writing was on the wall for Gairy. In 1978, five young persons just disappeared. In December of the same year, a police Inspector, a man with a wife and five kids, very likeable, very capable policeman rose to the rank of Inspector, he too disappeared. Shortly after that, a police Superintendent was fatally poisoned. It is believed that he knew what happened to that Inspector. There was another police Inspector, he too, was poisoned, but he survived. That angered the people and the police. For a long time Gairy demoralized the police, so, the police were feeling the repression.

In 1979, he started to compile a list for the call of an election and he said that the opposition would be lucky if they secured a single seat. He also said that the leadership of the New JEWEL Movement might not be around when the next election comes. The bank workers in our country at that time were agitating to be represented by a trade union of their choice. Gairy didn't like that, the bank didn't like it, but the bank workers won the struggle.

He got more and more annoyed, so in March, he left with five suit-

cases headed to the United States, and he left word that the leadership of the new JEWEL Movement should be gotten rid of. As word leaked to our people, they went into hiding, and within twenty-four hours they decided to strike the revolution.

There was no planning to have the revolution on March 13th. That goes to show you how prepared the people of Grenada were. Within 7 hours the revolution was secured and a public holiday was declared. It was such a relief to the people, and they came out in mass to support the revolution.

I see some people like to call it a Coup. I'd like to remind people that a number of persons in the present provisional government were opposition leaders in Gairy's government. Also, it was not a select group of Army people or police people or upper class or whatever people you want to talk about. The Grenada revolution is a broad based, popular peoples' uprising.

(Note: Next week Consul Burke talks about Freedom of the press in Grenada, economics, the New Constitution, health care and some of Grenada's plans for the future.)



Well, coming toward the mid-1950's, maybe 1951, 1952, we got adult suffrage, which meant that anybody over the age of twenty-one could vote. But if you were over twenty-one, and was working on somebody's estate, or you were working in somebody's hotel, or you were working with the government in power, who was the biggest employer in the islands, you still had to vote according to certain interests. And that continued, and when in 1951, Eric Matthew Gairy came to Grenada, people felt some relief in that he brought about some measure of political awakening. He formed a political party; he formed a trade union. Just around that time, we had adult suffrage and he became the Premier.

But Gairy started to squander peoples money so much that the British government, who still had control of our treasury, and our defense, er...they disenfranchised him. Shortly after that, an election was held and he lost that election.

So, in revenge, he came back about three or four years after when the next election was held, and he started to be very repressive with our people. He formed what was called the *Mongoose Gang*. A Mongoose is an animal that was brought to Grenada during the height of the sugar area, to eat up snakes, and they usually strike at night.

The *Mongoose Squad*, they intimidated people, they beat people, they shot people, murdered people...for example, in 1974 there was an election, and a band of them came straight from the Prime Minister's house and descended on the demonstration and later on, the father of our present Prime Minister was murdered in cold blood. That was a signal that Gairy was out to use any means to stop the people from demonstrating.

Let me say that by 1972 Gairy had called another election and at that time the opposition party was the Grenadian National Party. That party fought the elections. I was in Grenada at the time, and as the election results were coming out, the Grenadian National Party was certainly in the lead. Suddenly there was a pause, and after about two or three hours, when the reports star-

Well, our people are very peaceful, they are very Christian. The Roman Catholic Church is the largest church in our country. Most of our schools are church run and to talk about revolt in Grenada, it couldn't succeed. So you had to make your people aware, make your people understand there is another way out, and Gairy himself helped the process because as he became more and more repressive, the people began to see clearly that they couldn't depend on the ballot box.

In 1976 Gairy held the next election. At that time, there was a coalition of opposition forces. There was the Grenadian National Party, there was the United Peoples Party, there was the new Jewel Movement. They formed themselves into a Peoples Alliance, and they fought the election.

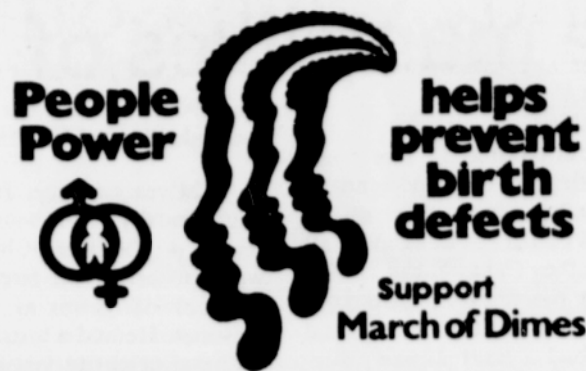
The results came out just as in 1972. In fact, there is a radio station in the Caribbean, which declared the Alliance the winner because the Grenadian radio went off the air again, and when it came back on, we just started to hear how many seats Gairy won. This time with all his rigging, he claimed that he won nine seats and the opposition won six seats.

So Gairy didn't have the mandate which he had hoped to get because we understood that what he wanted to do was to declare the country a Republic with himself as President for life.

But he didn't get a mandate to change the constitution. He became very vindictive toward the very members of opposition in Parliament. He would arrive at meetings late, he would just say what he wanted to say, and when the leader of opposition, which was Maurice Bishop would want to speak, he would walk out. So, the people of Grenada understood what had to be done.

By 1977, we saw he started to send some of our people to Chile. We started to see Chilean planes landing in Grenada, and we understood that those planes were carrying guns and ammunition. There was a batch of guns and ammunition that was intercepted in Barbados coming from Czechoslovakia. We knew it was headed into the country.

The repression started to increase



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How (and how not) to brighten your holiday season.



We, at PGE, sincerely wish all of you a festive and joyous holiday season. And just as important is your safety and good judgment when decorating indoors and out. So, here are a few tips on how (and how not) to brighten your holidays.

Decorating your tree. If you plan to put lights on your tree, we suggest you use midget lights. They use much less electricity than a single 50-watt light bulb. And, consider using the twinkle-type bulbs. Since they're off part of the time they use even less power.

Get more mileage from your tree. Lighted decorations get more mileage when used in conjunction with a mirror. The mirror reflects the lights and gives you a brighter effect. Adding more tinsel and reflective ornaments can also give you a brighter effect. Your tree can do double duty when placed in front of a window. So your decorations can be enjoyed from the outside as well as from the inside.

Don't let your tree work overtime. When you're ready to retire for the evening or when no one is in the room where the tree is located, turn off and unplug the decorative lights. It saves power and is a good safety precaution. Also, the tree won't dry out as fast. A good idea is to connect the lights to an automatic on/off timer. So you won't have to make a special effort to remember to turn it off. Also, when the tree lights are on, many other household lights aren't needed.

Inspect your electrical cords.

Inspect extension and other cords on holiday decorations before using them. Look especially for loose connections or frayed or exposed wire. If there's any doubt, throw the cord away and replace it with a new cord displaying the UL label.

Cords and decoration.

Be sure to unplug the lights when placing them on the tree. And please don't allow them to come in contact with anything flammable. (Try to use only noncombustible or flame-resistant decorations). Also, never place a cord under the carpet or rug. It could cause the cord to overheat. And, if you're using outdoor lighting, make certain any extension cord and the lights are labeled for outdoor use.

Keeping your tree in good shape.

When you bring your tree home, cut one inch from the bottom and place it in water as soon as possible. After it's up on display, be sure to keep the tree moist. Water it regularly and place it away from any heat source. And, please don't use candles to decorate your tree. It's just not worth the risk of fire.

One last request. Please don't use the fireplace as an incinerator. Don't burn wrappings or evergreen boughs because they can burn suddenly and rapidly throw off sparks and burning debris. Please follow these tips. You'll enjoy a safer and more energy-efficient holiday season.

Happy holidays from the people at

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