

Labour Spokesman

SOUND SPEECH THAT CANNOT BE CONDEMNED..., TITUS 2:8

No. 48 41ST YEAR

BASSETERRE . ST. KITTS . W.I.

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 1998

PRICE: \$1:50

Country Rallies Behind Prime Minister And Government To Recover From Week-End's Devastating Flash-Flood

One young man, Steve Maynard of Upper College Street, Basseterre, is dead; another resident from the same area, Pearlina Belle, is hospitalised and over 80 vehicles are reported to have been totally destroyed or damaged following a devastating 'flash-flood' here last Saturday night and early Sunday morning, November 28 and 29, which also caused extensive damage to several properties, including the Social Security Building on the Bay Road and other business places in down town Basseterre - all estimated at a cost of EC\$10,477,000 or US\$3,880,370.00.

Maynard, 43, a popular mechanic, was reportedly washed away by flood waters, after trying to secure one of his personal vehicles, parked outside his home. His body was discovered early Monday morning, after being knocked ashore by sea waves in the Fortlands area, a few yards away from Fisherman's Wharf, owned by the Ocean Terrace Inn.

According to the Police, Maynard died as a result of multiple injuries to the head and body. He was buried at the Springfield Cemetery later that day (Monday).

Miss Belle, a local business woman, said to be in her 50s, is recuperating at the Joseph N. France General Hospital after being washed away by the flood in her bus and miraculously rescued in the vicinity of College Street and Central Street. She was dug out from the debris after being partially buried, the Police stated.

"A hard shower came about 10:30 p.m. (Saturday) then I heard a rumbling sound like an earthquake," remarked a shopkeeper at Upper College Street (Ghaut) who witnessed the rapid build-up and intensity of the ravaging flood water as it grappled everything in its path with a ferocious appetite, depositing its victims at the Bay Front, between the Ferry/Bus Terminal and the Social Security Building, or into the open sea.

"It all happened suddenly", she continued. "I had shortly before closed up my shop and was upstairs watching from my window when I saw vehicles going down the ghaut.

"I saw Miss Belle waving from the bus and heard Steve yelling for help.

"Shortly after I went downstairs to have a closer look. I could not do anything to help, because lots of big stones, vehicles, trees, animals, pots, pans and other items were piling up on top of one another.

"The water passed the wall (College Street) and ran into people's yards and houses on both sides of the street, while vehicles sailed like ships down to the sea."

"A frightening experience," an elderly man, in his seventies, from the College Street area, called it. "I have never seen anything like this before in living memory. It was worse than Georges."

A casino worker and vendor from the area, told our reporter, he was not at home when the "ghaut broke loose".

"My daughter and I were out doing some selling. I decided to go home I went outside, I realized that water had reached my waist, so I took my daughter and put her on my shoulders and tell her to hold on. I walked many areas to get home and finally ended up at the Ferry and Bus Terminal. I had to walk on top of buses and cars to cross."

(cont'd on page 22)



Steve Maynard

PHOTO CAPTION: AT LEFT(TOP TO BOTTOM)

P.M. Douglas (2nd from right) visits scene at the Bay Front, a second time on Sunday morning, after an assessment tour of the island with the Hon Cedric Liburd (right); at left are NEMA Director, Mike Bentley and an official of the Logos II ship.

The Hon Earl Asim Martin supervising the clean-up work on Sunday morning at the Bay Front.

Housing Minister, the Hon Timothy Harris with owner of the demolished house at Phillips Roy Natta surveying destruction of the home.

Volunteers responding to Prime Minister's call cleaning the Bay Front.

AT RIGHT:

Road Superintendent Alston Peets(2nd from right) speaking with the Prime Minister (left), Health Minister, Hon Earl Asim Martin and the Hon Cedric Liburd.

Tourism Minister, the Hon Dwyer Astaphan (left) and Prime Minister Douglas in conversation, having an early look at the damage at the Bay Front on Sunday morning.

Prime Minister Douglas leading the clean-up campaign on Tuesday morning (National Clean-up Day).

Education, Labour and Social Security Minister, Hon Rupert Herbert, spear-heading the clean-up in the Social Security Building on Tuesday morning.

The body of the flood victim, Steve Maynard, being taken away by the undertaker on Monday morning.

Drugs, Guns, Crime and Corruption are the Legacy of PAM

Country Rallies Behind Prime Minister And Government To Recover From Week-End's Devastating Flash-Flood

(cont'd from page 1)

Another young man who was at the Ferry Terminal playing Domino, said he heard the rumbling, observed what was taking place but had to abandon his car to escape with his life. "No one had a chance to try anything," he declared, "it was a terrible ordeal to witness". Debris (sand etc.) deposited at the intersection of College Street and the Bay Road, in front of the Social Security Building was up to 15feet high, covering at least 20 vehicles.

Prime Minister, Dr the Hon Denzil Douglas at a Press Conference on Monday afternoon, December 1, said the overall damage to the country was estimated by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), at EC\$10,477,000 or US\$3,880,370. This he said included the cost of a general clean-up of the roads etc, rendered impassible for vehicular traffic by the vehicles, sand, silt, stones and debris from land and mud slides associated with the flood of stock and disruption of services, estimated at a cost of EC\$1,500,000.

Approximately 40 residential buildings in Basseterre, St. Peters, Phillips' and Tabernacle sustained damage, estimated at a cost of EC\$400,000. These include a newly built concrete dwelling house at Phillips Village which was demolished as a result of the severe land slide in the area.

Some 82 vehicles were either lost or damaged at an estimated cost of EC\$4,800,000.

Due to the flooding at the main power plant at Kittstoddart/Needsmust, the

electricity supply was knocked out in Basseterre and other districts of the island. There was also minor disruption of the water supply and the estimated damage to the electricity and water supply was put at EC\$500,000.

According to the Prime Minister the Sugar Manufacturing Corporation (SSMC) sustained damage to the field side and railway system to the extent of EC\$877,000 and the general economic impact of the country, by the storm, was EC.\$1,000,000.

The Prime Minister went on to announce Tuesday, December 1, as National Clean-up Day, inviting Civil Servants; private sector workers; the Leader of the Opposition, Hugh Heyliger and his Party supporters and civic-minded nationals to join him in the massive clean-up effort, spear headed by his Government to return the country to normal by 10:00 p.m. Tuesday.

At the Press Conference he received the full support of the President of the St. Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Mr Kishu Chandaramani and the Executive Director of the Hotel and Tourism Association, Mr Val Henry, who both said the clean-up campaign was of paramount importance, particularly in light of the scheduled visit of four (4) tourist ships on Thursday (December 3).

They therefore appealed to their members to rally to the cause and turn out in large numbers at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday.

The Prime Minister also announced a number of restrictions on owners and



Social Security staff, assisted by volunteers shovelling out sand from first floor of the building

operators of vehicles, declaring the area designated for cleaning as a Disaster Area, to facilitate and expedite the clean-up campaign in downtown Basseterre.

In the Prime Minister's own words, the

response from the Private Sector and the public at large was "overwhelming".

Led by the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues, hundreds turned out on Tuesday to the call for national duty and pride and to

put St. Kitts back to work, after another devastating blow by "mother nature", the second in just over two months, following sharply on the heels of Hurricane Georges.



Vehicles wrecked by the flood, piled up at Port Zante in front of the Treasury Building

UNDER 14 NATIONAL BANK SCHOOLS FOOTBALL FINALS TODAY

Basseterre Junior High advanced to the Finals in grand style defeating Verchids High on Thursday to finish at the top of its zone.

The tournament began in November. The zones were as follows:

Zone I - Cayon High, Basseterre Junior High II, Convent High, Gingerland Secondary.

Zone II - Sandy Point High, Basseterre Junior High I, Verchids High, Charlestown Secondary.

At the Under 16 level, Basseterre Junior High School

has emerged as zone winner, in Zone I. Sandy Point High is the other qualifier in that zone ahead of Verchids High and Gingerland Secondary.

The other two sports in Zone II will be settled today. Basseterre High will meet Charlestown Secondary. The Nevis school has to defeat Basseterre High while a draw will earn them a berth in the Semi-finals.

Meanwhile at the Primary Division four schools met yesterday in the final round of matches. Estridge Primary, St. Pauls Primary, Newton Ground Primary and

Irish Town Primary emerged as Zone Champions from each of their Zones. This year the zones competed in one (1) day festivals, replacing the regular league that is usually played.

At the private school level St. Joseph became the new champions. Six private schools competed for the competition. The Primary Schools competition will climax next Wednesday, 9th December, at Warner Park with the annual federal school's 7-a-side festival. Twelve schools from St. Kitts and Nevis will compete for the National Bank 7-a-side festival trophy.

