

Broadcast By The Hon. Minister Of S. S.

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Institute in Basseterre will be expanded and its curriculum will be widened. The Institute will provide for suitably qualified students a 2-year course leading to the G.C.E. O Level in as many subjects as possible, as well as a 2-year course leading to the G.C.E. A Level. Suitable students will be allowed to join the O Level and A Level courses in the second year.

Evening Institute

The Institute will arrange a preliminary course for those students whose standard are not suitable for them to begin the G.C.E. O Level course. Such students will prepare for the School Leaving Certificate examination.

In the other parts of the territory, wherever there is a secondary school and there is a sufficient demand, branches of the Evening Institute will be established and courses similar to those in Basseterre will be arranged as far as possible.

In Basseterre, and wherever else the facilities might exist, the Evening Institute will provide courses leading to recognised examinations in technical, trade and vocational subjects.

Higher Education

Government will continue to support the University of the West Indies and will rely on this institution for higher education and research.

It is proposed that the new College—see under "Trade and Vocational Education"—will provide full-time courses in some subjects for the first year at least of the U.W.I. syllabus under the sponsorship of the U.W.I. Students thus trained will write the same examinations as other U.W.I. students in Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, and Barbados, under the supervision of the U.W.I.

The number of scholarships and bursaries for students to be trained at the U.W.I. and other approved universities will be increased and Government will make every effort to secure maximum assistance from international organisations like U.N.E.S.C.O.

Examinations

All pupils in secondary schools will continue to take the Cambridge G.C.E. and private pupils will continue to take the London G.C.E.

Students pursuing courses in trade and vocational subjects will all prepare for formal examinations. In commercial subjects they will take examinations such as the Royal

Society of Arts examinations; for the other craft level courses they will take examinations for certificate of apprenticeship which will be set by the Examinations Council—see below—or by an approved overseas examining body.

The City and Guilds Ordinary National Certificate examinations or other examination of a similar standard will be taken by those students pursuing courses at the Technician level.

School Leaving Certificate

Children who leave school at the age of 14 years need to be provided with the evidence of their standard of achievement. To this end, a School Leaving Certificate examinations will be instituted. This will encourage children to remain at school and at the same time provide successful pupils with necessary evidence of qualification for entry into craft level course, the Evening Institutes O Level course, etc.

The School leaving certificate examinations will be set by the Examinations Council and will be open to anyone over 14 years of age.

The School Leaving Certificate will state, inter alia, the subjects in which the candidate has been successful. It will not be awarded unless a stated minimum number of subjects has been passed on one and the same occasion.

An examination will be held for "streaming" students on their entry into the secondary schools, this will be the same for all secondary schools.

Examinations Council

A single body, to be called the Examination Council, will be established and will be responsible for (1) the conducting of all public examination and (2) the setting of all purely territorial examinations, such as the examinations for the certificate of apprenticeship and the School Leaving Certificate.

The Council will seek to have representation from teachers organisations, the University of the West Indies and

private organisations.

If proper arrangements can be made and agreement reached, the Examinations Council of this territory may collaborate with other British Caribbean countries in setting up a West Indies Examinations Council.

Teacher Training

It is proposed that there will be a department of teacher training in the new College—see under "Trade and Vocational Education"—which will be part of the Institute of Education of the University of the West Indies.

The Government is aware that the success of its education policy depends in large measure on there being not only sufficient teachers but also well-trained teachers. Teacher training is therefore regarded as one of the main priorities of the policy. The establishment of teacher training facilities in the territory is expected to triple the present average output of 8 trained teachers a year.

The aim is to provide a 2-year course leading to a certificate awarded by the U.W.I. for teachers who have successfully completed the in-service training course.

50 Trained Teachers A Year

In the first phase of the operation of the teacher training department, however, a crash programme to train about 50 teachers a year will be instituted in an effort to meet the demands of a critical shortage of trained teachers in both the primary and secondary schools.

In-service training in close co-operation with the Institute of Education of U.W.I. will continue along at present lines, but facilities will be expanded to make possible the training of all untrained teachers in the primary schools at least.

As a general rule, only those teachers who have successfully completed in-service training will be eligible for entry into the teacher training department of the new College. In addition, no teacher will be confirmed to the pensionable establishment

who has not successfully completed in-service training.

Orientation Course

In August of each year a 1-month orientation course will be held for all recruits and potential recruits to the teaching service, whether for the primary schools or the secondary schools. New teachers will normally be selected only from among those who have attended the orientation course.

Government will increase the number of teachers trained overseas at approved universities and colleges.

School Broadcasting — Sound And Television

It is proposed to make full use of broadcasting in all types of schools and ultimately to have television in all or nearly all schools. An efficient service for schools by these two media will be expensive, but it is believed that if the programmes are properly integrated with the curricula of the schools, the improvement in education will more than justify the expense.

This, then, is the Government's Draft Education Policy. I expect the whole Draft to be published in the newspapers and you are encouraged to get hold of a copy and make a careful study of it.

As I said at the beginning of this broadcast, my Ministry will be very glad to find out your views on this Policy. We will pay the most serious attention to constructive opinions on the Draft before we publish the final document.

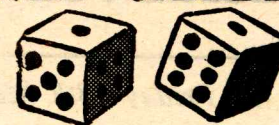
There is one thing I must say before I wish you Goodnight.

As you will no doubt appreciate, a policy cannot be implemented all at one time. It takes a little while for the whole plan to be put into operation. But the Government is anxious to implement the Policy as quickly as possible.

New Sandy Point Secondary School In September

And so, the new secondary school which will open in Sandy Point in September of this year will be a comprehensive secondary school, providing free secondary educa-

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tion for all suitable children over 12 years of age and for selected pupils who are 10 and 11 years.

Full information about comprehensive secondary schools will immediately be made available to the whole territory.

A comprehensive school is an area school, that is to say that only pupils living in the same locality will attend it. Something like the present primary schools. But a comprehensive secondary school teaches at the same standard as the Grammar School and is a lot more useful to the community.

From Half-Way Tree To Newton Ground

The area to be covered by the new Sandy Point comprehensive secondary school will extend from Half-Way Tree to Newton Ground. Only pupils living within this area will be permitted to attend it.

I will again address you in the near future to announce other steps that Government will be taking by September to implement its new Education Policy. These will include closer collaboration between the St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School and the Girls' High School, the extension of the activities of the Evening Institute, school building and teacher training.

The Government has produced a very dynamic and progressive Policy, one which can compare favourably with any Education Policy in any part of the world. We hope that parents will make the best use of the opportunities we are offering their children.

I thank you. Goodnight.