

T W E N T I E T H R E P O R T

O F T H E

S A L A R I E S R E V I E W C O M M I S S I O N

O F T H E

R E P U B L I C O F T R I N I D A D A N D T O B A G O

April 10, 1990.

TWENTIETH REPORT OF THE SALARIES REVIEW COMMISSION.

Terms and Conditions of Service applicable
to certain Ministers of Government.

Section 141(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago provides that the terms and conditions of service of Ministers of Government be reviewed by the Salaries Review Commission. Accordingly, approval has been conveyed by His Excellency the President for the Salaries Review Commission to consider the position of:-

- (i) those Ministers of Government who reside more than twenty (20) miles from their constituencies;
- (ii) Ministers ordinarily resident in Tobago but who are required by reason of their ministerial duties to reside in Trinidad and who have constituencies in Tobago:
 - (a) while on official duty as Ministers,
 - (b) while on visits to their respective constituencies.

2. In examining these requests the Commission has focussed on the matter of Transport and Subsistence arrangements for Ministers of Government. At present, the following are the Transport and Subsistence provisions applicable to Ministers of Government:-

TRANSPORT FACILITIES

- (i) A maximum loan of \$25,000 to facilitate the purchase of a motor vehicle with full exemption from Motor Vehicle Tax;

- (ii) A loan to cover the cost of Motor Vehicle Insurance premium;
- (iii) A commuted Travelling Allowance of \$875 per month;
- (iv) A Special Travel Allowance of \$450 per month;
- (v) Chauffeur Arrangements -
 - (a) A Chauffeur Allowance equivalent to the minimum salary of a Chauffeur II in the Public Service.
 - (b) A Commuted Monthly Overtime Allowance of \$500 per month.
 - (c) A Subsistence Allowance of \$120 per month.

SUBSISTENCE ARRANGEMENTS:

- (i) For travel beyond a radius of ten (10) miles from Port-of-Spain on official business, an allowance of \$70 per day.
- (ii) Ministers who reside outside of Port-of-Spain; monthly subsistence allowances as follows:
 - (a) \$400 per month where he/she resides beyond a radius of ten (10) miles from Port-of-Spain; or
 - (b) \$500 per month where the radius is twenty (20) miles from Port-of-Spain and beyond.
- (iii) Entitlement to the cost of accommodation

and meals in the event that Ministers are required to stay overnight as a result of late sittings of Parliament, provided always that they reside beyond a radius of ten (10) miles from Port-of-Spain.

3. The Commission observes that in determining appropriate transport facilities and subsistence arrangements for Ministers of Government, special consideration has been given to the fact that in performing their duties as Ministers, Port-of-Spain is a focal point in terms of the business of Parliament, Cabinet and Ministries. As such, transport and subsistence arrangements have been provided in cases where a Minister lives beyond a particular distance from Port-of-Spain as well as where the Minister is required to travel a substantial distance from Port-of-Spain in the performance of his official duties as a Minister.

4. After deliberating on the issue of transport and subsistence arrangements for Ministers who reside a particular distance from their constituencies, the Commission took the position that this matter can be dealt with more appropriately when the entire matter of remuneration for Ministers is being reviewed.

5. With regard to the position of the Minister who is ordinarily resident in Tobago but who, by reason of his ministerial duties is required to reside in Trinidad, we are of the view that account must be taken of the inconvenience which can result from such circumstances. Accordingly, we recommend that the monthly Subsistence Allowance should be extended to such a Minister at a rate of \$700 per month.

6. With respect to official travel to Tobago, the Commission has noted that Ministers of Government are now provided with hotel accommodation, including meals. In addition they are eligible for a Subsistence Allowance of \$10 per day. However, there is need to make provision

for instances where:

- (i) the Minister is not required to overnight in Tobago; or
- (ii) where he is required to overnight but opts not to utilise hotel facilities.

In such circumstances, the Commission recommends that the Minister be paid a flat subsistence allowance of \$70 per day.

7. In the case of the Prime Minister, the following arrangements for the payment of Subsistence are provided:-

- (i) for travel on official business beyond a radius of 10 miles from Port-of-Spain, an allowance of \$60 per day;
- (ii) for official travel to Tobago, hotel expenses including meals and a Subsistence Allowance of \$30 per day.

8. The Commission observes that anomalies appear to exist between these provisions and those applicable to certain other holders of public offices in similar circumstances. Accordingly, the Commission recommends that the following revised allowances should be extended to the Prime Minister:

- (i) For travel on official business beyond a radius of ten (10) miles from Port-of-Spain, a Subsistence Allowance of \$70 per day.
- (ii) For official travel to Tobago, hotel expenses including meals and a Subsistence Allowance of \$40 per day, or a flat sum of \$90 per day.

9. In summary, the Commission recommends that the following revised arrangements in terms of Transport facilities and Subsistence arrangements for Ministers of Government should be provided:-

1. Transport Facilities:

The existing Transport facilities should continue to apply.

2. Subsistence Arrangements:-

PRIME MINISTER

- (i) For travel on official business beyond a radius of ten (10) miles from Port-of-Spain, an allowance of \$70 per day.

- (ii) For official travel to Tobago, hotel expenses including meals and a subsistence allowance of \$40 per day; or a flat sum of \$90 per day.

The flat rate of \$90 to be applicable where:

- (a) the Prime Minister is not required to overnight in Tobago, or

- (b) where he/she is required to overnight but opts not to utilize hotel facilities.

MINISTERS OF GOVERNMENT

- (i) For travel on official business beyond a radius of ten (10) miles from Port-of-Spain, a subsistence allowance of \$70 per day.
- (ii) Where the Minister resides outside of Port-of-Spain, a monthly subsistence allowance as follows:-
 - (a) \$400 where he/she resides beyond a radius of ten (10) miles from Port-of-Spain, or
 - (b) \$500 where he/she resides beyond a radius of twenty (20) miles from Port-of-Spain, or
 - (c) \$700 where normal residence is in Tobago.
- (iii) For official travel to Tobago:
 - (a) Where overnight stay is required:-

Hotel expenses including meals.
In addition, a subsistence allowance of \$10 per day is payable. Where, however, the Minister opts not to utilise hotel facilities, a flat subsistence allowance of \$70 per day to be payable.
 - (b) Where no overnight stay is required:-

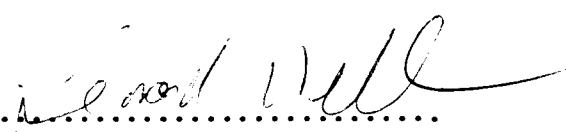
A flat subsistence allowance of \$70 per day to be payable.
- (iv) Entitlement to the cost of accommodation and meals in the event that Ministers are required to stay overnight as a result of late sittings of Parliament, provided

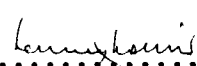
always that they reside beyond a radius
of ten (10) miles from Port-of-Spain.

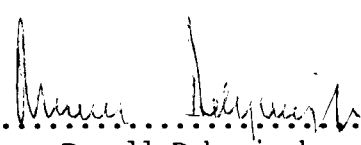
10. The Commission recommends that the revised
arrangements should take effect from April 2, 1990.

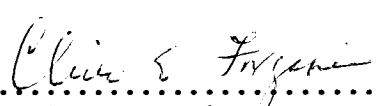
April 20, 1990.

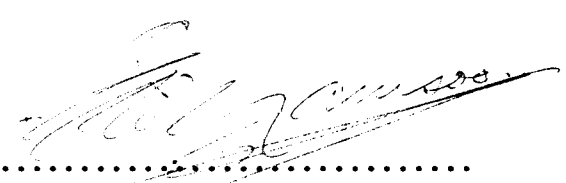
Dated this 20th day of April 1990.


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Leonard Williams (Chairman)


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Edward Collier


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Rowell Debysingh


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Clive Forgenie


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Michael Namsoo