

Minutes

Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting of the Canning's Employees' Credit Union Co-operative Society Limited held on Thursday 20th March, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. at the Lion's Cultural Centre, Fitzblackman Drive, Woodbrook.

CALL TO ORDER

CECU's President and Chairman of the proceedings, Mr. Emil de la Grenade, called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. He gave notice, in accordance with the report of the Credentials Committee that the meeting was duly constituted since there were 140 members and 20 guests present.

Elizabeth Raphael, General Manager, opened the meeting with prayer which was followed by the National Anthem and one minute's silence for those departed.

NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Mrs. Maria Mc Millan, Secretary to the Board, read the official Notice of the Meeting.

OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed the gathering and more particularly the distinguished guests.

Mr. de la Grenade noted the significance of the year 2002 and drew reference to the two major 50th Anniversary celebrations.

The first, on October 27th, involved the entire membership at a family day at the WITCO Sports Grounds. Over one thousand members and their families participated. CECU was especially appreciative that Culture and Tourism Minister Penelope Beckles took time out of her busy schedule to attend.

The second event commemorated all the officers who had served the Credit Union, on a voluntary basis, over the years. Former President of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Arthur N. R. Robinson, and Mrs. Robinson graced CECU with their presence on December 5th. It was noteworthy that eighteen credit unions from the Credit Union Movement came out to congratulate CECU on its 50th Anniversary.

Mr. de la Grenade cautioned that, while 2002 had been successful in many ways, the membership should be aware of the Board's concern with regard to CECU's ability to pay a dividend of 8%. The financial sector had not been able to generate high interest rates in investments in Trinidad and Tobago and payment of 8% may not be maintained in the near future.

Nevertheless, CECU had embarked on an exercise to improve its general assets during 2003. That proposal involved three major organizations: CUNA Mutual, Neal & Massy (N) Credit Union and the Canning's Employees' Credit Union.

During April, the Credit Union would take time off to review all its operations, consolidate past achievements and plan for the future. This would require the Directors and Members of the sub-committees to generously give much more of their time than in the past.

On the subject of the tax rebate, Mr. de la Grenade mentioned that in the last meeting,

on 21st March 2002, he had spoken about the \$2,500 tax rebate and he said then that the Credit Union Movement should initiate some move to restore it. The Government provision of \$10,000 per year as the tax rebate for those members who would have purchased shares to that amount was "beyond his wildest imagination". This offered a window of opportunity that the Movement should embrace. A resolution was further proposed at the League's General Meeting to strengthen the units by observing the highest possible integrity and core values.

Mr. de la Grenade expressed his thanks to the Government on behalf of CECU for having selected Ms. Raphael, CECU's General Manager, as Chairperson of the National Enterprise Development Company. Such an appointment spoke well for CECU and expressed congratulations and a pledge of support, on behalf of the credit union, to Ms. Raphael.



Maria Mc Millan
Secretary

The Chairman reported that the Credit Union continued to strengthen its relationship with the Neal and Massy Credit Union and TECU by having discussions that would benefit both organisations in order to achieve a satisfactory alliance.

In closing, Mr. de la Grenade thanked the Board of Directors, particularly the Vice President of CECU Mr. Govind Maharaj and members of the various sub-committees for their support. He also wished to particularly thank the General Manger and the entire staff of the Employees' Credit Union for their commitment and loyalty to the organisation. Without that commitment, the success of the Credit Union would not have been possible. Mr. de la Grenade invited the Commissioner of Co-operatives, Mr. Keith Maraj, to deliver the keynote address. Mr. Maraj was deputizing for the Minister of Labour & Small and Micro Enterprise Development, the Honourable Lawrence Achong.

FEATURE ADDRESS:

Mr. Keith Maraj, Commissioner of Co-operatives, conveyed the Minister's apologies because of certain constraints and that he wished the 51st Annual General Meeting every success.

He drew reference to the bombing of Iraq which would undoubtedly have serious consequences in the short-term and inevitably would affect travel, supplies and prices.

While he did not know how long the war would be, it would surely change the financial equation from yesterday.

He suggested looking at the stock markets where they would see that there were companies already in a "tail spin". Against that background, he presented Minister Achong's address.

Minister Achong wished to apologise, first of all, for his absence at the 50th Anniversary Awards function held in December last year, since certain pressing engagements, which required his immediate attention, forced him to miss a most excellent function. At that point, Mr. Keith Maraj endorsed Mr. Achong's

statement because, he too attended the function and found that it was excellent and congratulated all the awardees, recipients of awards and the founding members of the Credit Union.

In extending belated congratulations on CECU's dedication and commitment to the financial well being of its membership over the last half-century, he singled out Mr. Thomas Rampersad among the pioneers who had started it all.

The Minister expressed the view that CECU, under the distinguished leadership of Mr. Emil de la Grenade, had performed remarkably well over the last financial year. There had been growth in every department, reflected in an overall increase in total assets from \$63,000,000 to \$72,000,000 (Trinidad and Tobago dollars) or growth of 15% from the previous year. If one looked at the incremental growth in our National economy, it is obvious that 15% was a really high growth figure.

With regard to the 8% dividend on shares, Mr. Lawrence noted that the ability to declare such a dividend in a financial environment characterized by high liquidity and low interests rates, was a reflection on the quality of CECU's leadership. Even more impressive was the fact that Canning's still lends at 1% per month on the unpaid balance.

He noted the mix of the CECU's investment portfolio and community activities, aimed at widening and deepening its financial and social base so that members could enjoy a better quality of life. He recognized that there was a wealth of talent, knowledge, experience and expertise in leadership and management of the Credit Union, which had, over the last 50 years, brought the Credit Union into the mainstream of the financial services institutions in Trinidad and Tobago. It was a widely held view

that, given the present growth of the financial growth and financial performance, CECU will continue to be a major player among the best in the financial market place.

In this regard, it was commendable that CECU had positioned itself to meet the challenges of the new realities of the liberalized financial environment. He was confident that the CECU's present initiatives would further propel the leadership to explore, more aggressively, all options available in the financial market place, which would redound to a better quality of life for its membership. It was imperative that the Credit Union continue to examine ways to refine and enhance the level of services provided to its membership to strive to be a leader in pioneering new products to excite the needs of the market place.

Government, he said, had embarked upon a series of measures to alleviate the social and economic difficulties, especially faced by those at the lower end of the economic ladder. As such Government had decided to return the tax incentives for savings in Credit Union and Co-operative Societies to the extent of \$10,000 per year. This, he stated, represented an increase of \$7,500 for the tax incentive of \$2,500 of a few years ago. This measure would undoubtedly attract many new members as well as increase the contributions of existing members.

The Movement must prepare itself for that enhanced flow of funds through an enlightened approach to investments, lending and commercial business activities. He further expressed the view that there had to be sound management practices, financial and accounting discipline and the establishment of acceptable prudential standards in the operations of the credit unions. Mr. Achong pointed out that the Movement had grown exponentially especially over the past few

years. The Commissioner continued to have the undaunted task of supervising that Sector with outdated legislation enacted since 1971.

Mr. Lawrence reported that the Government was committed to bringing modern and enlightened legislation early to parliament to enhance the quality of supervision and at the same time giving the Movement the autonomy and flexibility to grow and develop to its full potential. The draft bill was circulated to the Credit Union Movement for comment and he hoped that the Canning's Credit Union would take the opportunity to put forward its views for transforming this sector.

The proposed establishment of the Co-operative Development Bank, as articulated in the budget speech by the Honourable Prime Minister, was expected to address many of the financial challenges faced by the Movement itself. It should also provide a window for financing the development of small and micro-enterprises.



Elizabeth Raphael
General Manager

In that context, members were informed that the Government and Movement would engage in widespread and meaningful consultation before any step was taken in that regard.

The Credit Union Movement provided an avenue for achieving mutual security through community action and contribution. He believed that laudable concept would be the anti-thesis of such undesirable habits as chronic dependency on others to provide for "our" needs. This concept emphasized instead the virtues of self-reliance and self help together with other values of equity, honesty and responsibility, among others, which set the Movement apart from other organisations.

He explained that, "We have come to realize that liberalization, privatization and globalization have become the philosophy and driving force of the new business culture and have begun to dictate the conduct of business in industry and commerce in both the developed and developing countries. This must reflect the way we relate to our social partners and how we posture ourselves in the international financial market place."

Mr. Lawrence explained that the shift from protectionism to liberalization had serious implications for the financial service institutions especially the Credit Union system where the traditional membership now had a choice of savings and credit opportunities.

Survival in the industry demanded a level of efficiency that was different from our traditional business culture and business structure. The viability therefore of credit unions depended on their capacity to address readily to market demands. He noted that the ability of Co-operatives to effectively position themselves in the market and to recognize the dangers of complacency would either result in future successes or failures of the Movement to maximize the vast opportunities this new era presented.

Mr. Lawrence pointed out that this sector must also concern itself with membership and public

awareness, information, training, marketing, product enhancement and innovation, quality service to its membership and sound investment policies, among others.

CECU possessed the level of resources and skills to address those issues and to provide guidance to the rest of the Movement in creating a sound and stable financial environment. He noted that the transformation of the credit union system required a change in the mentality of members to focus their attention on the needs to build a strong and viable organisation rather than obtaining easy credit at less than market rates. He stated that due to certain factors inherent in the society, a significant number of members only saw the Co-operative Movement as a means of obtaining easy credit and tax relief rather than an institution, but if developed to its full potential could play a major roll in transforming the economic well-being of its members and, by extension, the community and society.

He cautioned that the philosophy and principals upon which this great Movement was built must not be lost in the push for higher dividends and profits. The moral and ethical values must be the basis upon which all decisions were made.

Mr. Achong explained that the transformation of credit unions as financial institutions of first choice could not happen over night. It was important that the leadership of the institution and all stake holders continue to build and maintain confidence in the Co-operative Movement through the implementation of financial and organizational discipline insisting on developing and maintaining prudential standards of performance to build an institution they could all be proud of.

In closing, the Honourable Minister expressed his thanks, to the Canning's Credit Union for the opportunity to share his thoughts with the Meeting and wished them, all the best, as they go about their endeavours, in providing a better quality of life for its membership and the wider community. He then extended best wishes for a successful 51st Annual General Meeting.

VOTE OF THANKS

Mr. Govind Maharaj, Vice President, moved the vote of thanks to the feature speaker, Mr. Keith Maraj, deputising for the Minister of Labour & Small and Micro Enterprise Development. It was probably provident, he said, that one 'Maraj' was thanking another, a good omen for the evening.

He took cognizance of Mr. Keith Maraj's commendation of the Credit Union on its strong financial performance and the talent, knowledge, expertise and experience in the leadership. He then thanked the Honourable Minister, Mr. Lawrence Achong through Mr. Keith Maraj, for the tax incentive provided to Co-operatives of \$10,000. He stated that the Credit Union was grateful for that and looked forward to further incentives in the future. Those incentives would go a long way to building the savings base in the Credit Union and to achieving the stated aim, as he mentioned, of the potential of the Credit Union Movement of the development of the country.

He gave the assurance that the Credit Union may rise to meet the challenges that he had described that were going to be ahead in the liberalised financial environment. He thanked the Commissioner for his unstinting support to the Credit Union specifically over the years and for taking time off to address the meeting and to participate in the 51st Anniversary.



ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report was moved by Sean Clarke and seconded by Junior Dhoray with all in favor.

PROCEDURE OF THE MEETING

The Standing Orders

The meeting moved the acceptance of the Standing Orders on a motion moved by Ignatius Blandin and seconded by John Scott.

VOTING PROCEDURES

The Chairman invited members to begin the voting procedure by casting votes for the Supervisory Committee (3 persons), Credit Committee (5 persons) and finally the Board of Directors (4 persons).

Scrutineers for the voting of the Supervisory Committee were: Mr. Steve De Souza, Mrs. Deanne Simpson, Mr. Francis Camacho and Ms. Judy Tardieu. The count was supervised by and a representative of the Co-operative Department.

The scrutineers for the Board and Credit Committees were: Ms. Lenora Marshall, Ms. Helen Blackman, Mr. Bislam Ramroop, Ms. Jennifer Williams, Mr. Abfzal Ali, Mr. Keston Hamlet, Ms. Denise Barton and Ms. Patricia White.

MINUTES OF THE 50th MEETING

The Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting were to be found on pages 7-21 of the annual report . It was moved by Pearl Lopez and seconded by Calvin Francis.

There being no matters arising, the Chairman advised that there were 233 members present at the meeting and turned his attention to introducing and welcoming the guests present: Mr. Gary Cross of Eastern Credit Union, Mr. Larry Hackshaw, Mr. Anthony Hall -

CEO of CUNA Mutual, Mrs. Rona Ince, Mr. Keith Maharaj - Commissioner of Co-operatives, Ms. Reshma Mahase the representative from the Price Waterhouse Coopers, Mrs. Grace New, Mr. Donovan Palmer - Teacher's Credit Union, Mrs. Soonardaye Soonilal - from the Co-operative Department, Mr. Ricardo St.Cyr from Nedco, Mr. and Mrs. Pernel Welch, Mr. Joseph Lord - President, Neal and Massy (North) Credit Union and the Board of Directors, Mr. Ronald Peters - President of the Neal and Massy South Credit Union.

Apologies were received from the Honourable Mr. Lawrence Achong - Minister of Labour & Small and Micro Enterprise Development, Mr. Joseph Teixeira, Mr. Robert Mayers, Mr. Maurice Quesnel, Mr. Michael Marshall, Mr. Ronald Jones, Mr. Brendan Costelloe, Mr. Brian D. Hewitt, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rampersad, Mr. Clary Benn, Mr. Richard Thomas and Mr. Bernard Dulal-Whiteway - CEO of the Neal and Massy Group.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The Chairman then invited members to turn their attention to the Report of the Board of Directors on pages 24-35. The Report was adopted on a motion moved and seconded by Ms. Sheila Chaves and Mr. Charles Gill respectively.

MATTERS ARISING

Amalgamation with Neal & Massy (North) Credit Union

Mr. Blandin asked for an update with respect to the merger between Canning's Credit Union and the Neal and Massy (North) Credit Union. Mr. de la Grenade responded that both credit unions were trying a different strategy to get to know each other much better. The first step was inviting the entire N&M Board to CECU's AGM and vice versa, theirs taking place on Saturday 23rd March,

2003. He explained that both presidents were constantly in touch with each other. They were also considering a massive exercise that would bring them even closer together.

BUYING OVER OF A BARBADOS BANK

Mr. Blandin stated that he saw where there was supposed to be the buying over of "some Barbados Bank" by the Republic Bank. He then put the challenge to Mr. de la Grenade to find out which one was going to be completed first. Whether the bank arrangement would be finalized first or the Canning's Employees' Credit Union will merge first. He stated that that was the challenge to both Credit Unions. Mr. de la Grenade responded by stating that he heard his statements and he would take note.

THE NEW BUILDING

Mr. Ignatius Blandin stated that he saw Mr. de la Grenade, as the Chairman of the Building Committee, he then asked him to tell the Meeting what was happening on the committee, with respect to the building. In response, Mr. de la Grenade reported that they had been examining all the "thoughts" and they had been in touch with some of their architects, who would put before them certain proposals that would be made known to the members in due course.

Mr. Blandin wanted to know if a decision was made to have a new building, would the Canning's Credit Union bear the full cost of the building because he had an idea in his mind that he would have liked to be made known. Mr. de la Grenade informed Mr. Blandin that he was welcomed to give the Credit Union knew ideas, which they would accept, at that stage.

Mr. Blandin wondered whether a company could be established, within the Credit Union, with Canning's Credit Union owning the majority of shares. Other Credit Unions

would then be invited to buy into the shares for the building and opening shares available to the members of the Credit Union so that this would be part of the Credit Union and Company. Mr. de la Grenade acknowledged Mr. Blandin's request and stated that he would pass it on to the Building Committee and he assured him that they would give it due attention when the time came.

AUDITORS REPORT

The auditor's statement was read by the firm's representative and members' attention was drawn to the Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure, Statement of changes in Members' Funds, Receipts and Payments Account and Notes to the Financial Statement.

BUDGET

Projected Income and Expenditure

Ms. Elizabeth Raphael, General Manager, presented the Budget for the Fiscal Year ending 31st December 2003, by the Chairman.

With respect to income she informed the meeting that CECU projected revenue to the tune of \$7,370,102 which represented a 7.59% increase over the actual figures for 2002. She pointed out that the trends over the last three years showed that in 2002 there was a 6.6% increase over 1999. In 2001 there was an increase of 2.30% and in 2002 there was an 8.39% over 2001.

LOANS INTEREST

Ms. Raphael reported that CECU projected loans received to the tune of \$6,030,000 and the average yield on loans during 2002 was 10.5%. Members were informed that CECU was projecting a loan balance of 57.4 million at year-end and assuming similar returns to 2002. She further explained that the earnings and loans portfolio should be attainable.



INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

The General Manager explained that the investment income of \$1,102,102 represented reduced earnings as a result of the market being very liquid, rates declining on fixed deposits and UTC investments. She also stated that although they anticipated an increase in the investment portfolio of approximately \$6,000,000, for reasons previously alluded to, they were projecting a decrease of some \$120,000.

MORTGAGE MANAGEMENT FEES

With respect to the mortgage management fees, she stated that that represented earnings from the portfolio managed for the National Insurance Board with an average income of \$5,000 per month. Also on the investment income, Ms. Raphael pointed out that the projected income of \$1,102,102 would be realized from dividends on stocks calculated on earnings ranging from 25 cents to 60 cents per share. Some \$160,000 was anticipated in that area.

UTC INVESTMENT

The Meeting learnt that with respect to the UTC second scheme, management projected an average balance of 13.5 million calculated on an average effective rate of 6.2% to earn \$772,000, in that area. Ms. Raphael explained with respect to the UTC US dollar investment - based on an effective rate of 5.2%, CECU anticipated some \$77,367. The returns from other small investments should realise around \$71,708.

RENT

It is expected that \$78,000 will be earned from the rental of the property at 10 Victoria Avenue and also rental of their Boardroom facilities. She explained that the sundry revenue of \$100,000 would be derived from commissions from CUNA, Unit Trust Corporation and the Trinidad and Tobago Mortgage Finance

Company. Ms. Raphael conveyed that the Board considered the increase of 7.5% to be conservative and attainable.

EXPENSES

With respect to the CECU's expenses a 7.48% increase in personnel cost was projected along with a miniscule 2.11% in administrative costs. Ms. Raphael reported that there was a sizable cost of \$253,294 in 2002, with respect to the 50th Anniversary celebrations, which would be eliminated in 2003.

The Meeting learnt that 2002 was an exceptional year and that cost covered a lot of the marketing initiatives such as the sports and family day, the awards function and other social functions which marked their 50th Anniversary.

Ms. Raphael pointed out that all other expense items would be closely monitored so as to achieve maximum returns. A net increase of 9.68% was projected in gross earnings. It was also reported that the net surplus after allocating the statutory reserves was expected to be \$4,184,854, an increase of \$369,162 or 6.98% over 2002. Ms. Raphael informed members that some four years ago, loan interest rates were liberalized. CECU's Board adopted a stand that it would not increase its interest rates on loans and held to the traditional rate of 1% per month on the declining balance, which works out to an effective rate of approximately 6.5% per annum. Notwithstanding that decision, it had been able to maintain an 8% return as dividends to the members over the last five years.

She explained that internationally, economies remained sluggish and falling interest rates and lower yields and investments had presented challenges to management. She further

explained that recent developments with respect to the war in Iraq would further affect our influence, economic trends negatively. Ms. Raphael conveyed that in that view the Board would continue to be prudent in the management of the institutions. She noted that expenses would be closely monitored but even in the light of prudential measures undertaken, CECU may not be in a position to maintain the 8% return to which members have grown accustomed.

Ms Raphael cautioned that "our operation is not isolated from any negative impact or fluctuation that the financial industry may experience." As a consequence, while there could be some adjustments to dividends in the future, CECU guaranteed the soundness of the organisation, the safety of funds and the usual high quality of its service to the members that are the hallmark of the Canning's Employees' Credit Union.

The Budget was accepted by Mary Fullerton and seconded by Amanda Raeburn with all in favour.

CREDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The report of the Credit Committee was adopted by Terri Ann Brathwaite and seconded by Henry Marcial.

Mr. de la Grenade referred to the Credit Committee report on page 49. He proceeded to state that Mr. Calvin Francis was the chairman, Mr. John Scott was the secretary, Mr. Junior Dhoray, Mr. Glen Piontkowski and Ms. Rosemary Ayres were members, and the alternates were Randolph Austin and Kenny Reyes.

The Meeting was informed that the full details of the report were laid out. In all 44 meetings were held and the report indicated that there was an excellent attendance. At that point the Chairman called on the members to vote

so that the counting of the various ballot boxes could begin.

The chairman pointed out that page 50 gave the demographics of the committee. What was important was that 5453 were approved, 27 were not approved the total being 5480 and the report was signed by Calvin Francis and Mr. John Scott.

Mr. Blandin congratulated Ms. Rosemary Ayres on her 100% attendance to the Credit Committee Meetings. He referred to page 34 where the attendance of the members of the board was recorded and wanted to know the reason why Mr. Lewis only attended three meetings out of 6 and he is seen prominently on almost every page of the report. Mr. de la Grenade assured Mr. Blandin that the reason why Mr. Lewis could not attend was because his duties called for him to be out of the country. Mr. Blandin asked if Mr. Lewis could not have been excused. Mr. de la Grenade informed Mr. Blandin that he did make an excuse on each occasion. Mr. Blandin stated that they were not recorded. Mr. de la Grenade responded by saying that it should be corrected.

Mr. Blandin stated that "we" could look forward, therefore, to seeing Mr. Lewis if he is voted back onto the Board to attend 100% next year to make up for what he missed this year. Mr. de la Grenade responded by stating that with Mr. Blandin's vote he is sure Mr. Lewis will be there.

THE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Report of the Supervisory Committee, referred to on page 52, was adopted by Jennifer Williams and seconded by Ingrid Nichols.

Mr. de la Grenade announced that there were 325 members present at the meeting.



RESOLUTIONS

Two resolutions were presented for the approval of the membership.

- For the payment of a dividend of 8% to be paid on all fully paid up shares at the end of the financial year ended 31st December 2002 and that such dividends be credited to members' shares (in accordance with bye-law 25 Section (1)); Approved on a motion by Mr. John Hackshaw and seconded by Mr. Ian Lewis with all in favour.
- For appointment of PriceWaterhouseCoopers as Auditors for the 2002 term.

Approved on a motion by Mr. Kenny Jalsa and seconded by Ms. Carol Roberts with all in favour.

GREETINGS

Mr. Anthony Hall complemented the Canning's Employees' Credit Union by stating that form was temporary and class was permanent and he was sure that it was agreed that it had demonstrated its class in producing another year of successful results. He conveyed greetings on behalf of the managers of the CUNA Credit Union on the occasion of CECU's 51st Annual General Meeting and wished them success for another year.

With regards to the dividend, outlined by the General Manager, Mr. Hall encouraged the members to take full advantage of the offer being made by the Government to save as close as they could to the \$10,000 to achieve as high a tax credit as they could. He also noted that it might even be prudent to go on a campaign of borrowing to save.

He pointed out that if members added up their benefits as a credit union member, they would be maximising their dividends from the credit union and maximising their tax returns. Mr. Hall

explained that members would also continue to have their savings insured. In that regard he was sure that the credit union may even increase the maximum and of course the loans would also be insured. If they add that up then saving in the credit union would provide them with the best return in the current financial environment. Mr. Hall ended with a wish for an even better increase in savings than that predicted by the General Manager.

Dr. Winford James of the Credit Union League indicated that, in looking at the brochure, he was once again impressed by the performance of the Canning's Employees' Credit Union.

He noted that the Credit Union had grown in every area, as far as he could tell, and it had been able to maintain 8% in dividends. Mr. James pointed out that there was a general picture of growth over the last ten years, but especially in the last five years, and he saw that the Canning's Employees' Credit Union was a \$70,000,000 Credit Union. At that point he congratulated Mr. de la Grenade and the members.

Mr. James further informed that there were initiatives taking place in the Movement and invited the leadership of the Canning's Employees' Credit Union to participate in some of those initiatives. The Meeting learnt that one of the initiatives was the prospective conceptualization and development of what was being presently called a Community and Trust Merchant Bank. He explained that the Community and Trust Merchant Bank was being developed as a result of the Prime Minister's invitation to the Movement to come up with an institution that would truly enrich people in institutions such as the Credit Union Movement. Mr. James pointed out that this was because it had been recognised that the wealth of the country was not being spread as evenly as "we would like" despite the fact

that "we have had the Workers' Bank, Penny Bank and FCB."

He informed that there was a partnership at that moment between the Credit Union League, the Central Finance Facility, the Stabilization Fund and CUNA. Representatives of those organisations have been meeting to develop a proposal with respect to that Bank for presentation to the Prime Minister, hopefully by the end of the month.

In closing he expressed that he was happy to be at the AGM and continued to wish every success to the Canning's Employees' Credit Union.

Mr. Joe Lord wished the Canning's Employees' Credit Union all the success on its 51st Annual General Meeting, on behalf of the Neal and Massy (N) Credit Union. He stated with surety that CECU continued to grow from strength to strength and he was pretty sure that the future would be no different.

Mr. Lord gave a little word of encouragement to Mr. Blandin by stating that they have started to work from the bottom up. He further stated that they were hoping that, in the near future, they might be able to tell the Canning's membership and the Neal and Massy membership something that was pleasing to all.

He then asked the members of the Neal and Massy (North) Credit Union Board and Management to stand so that the meeting could see that they were committed and they would continue to make sure the best for both Credit Unions took place in the near future.

Mr. Gary Cross, President of the Eastern Credit Union thanked the Chairman for his kind invitation. He pointed out that the Eastern

Credit Union was, perhaps, one tiny step ahead of the Canning's Employees' Credit Union in the sense that they convened their meeting last Saturday, consistent with the statutory obligations that they must convene their meeting within three months of the audit. He added that that was just a tiny step ahead because CECU was way ahead in terms of performance.

Mr. Cross pointed out that CECU had declared a return of 8% while the Eastern Credit Union declared 4% dividend to their members and a 10% rebate interest rate, though the surplus position was quite good because it was close to \$19,000,000. So they had a long way to go in terms of meeting CECU, but they are working on it. He went on to commend the members because they were almost totally responsible for that kind of quality and that kind of dividend returns to themselves.

In his closing remarks Mr. Cross congratulated CECU and conveyed continued best wishes to the institution.

Mr. Ricardo St. Cyr representative from NEDCO said the following, "All I kept thinking when I came in here, I said now I understand why the Senator, Mr. Conrad Enill, when he called me late an evening he said, "don't worry we have the right chairperson for you." I said, "What you mean by that?" He said, "She is one of us. She understands your sector." I said, "Okay, what organisation?" He said, "Canning's Credit Union." I said, "Oh yeah, I heard about them." In four weeks, you should know, we have had three Directors' meetings and all six committees have met. Not during your normal working hours, mind you, so we did not take her away from you. All into the night, midnight at times, she was generous, she allowed us to have dinner. But I am sure, seeing what her contribution has been and that the history of your organisation behind her, would assure that NEDCO will continue to experience great success."

Mrs. Welch brought greetings from the Huggin's Credit Union and expressed that it was enlightening to see how CECU was.

She explained that each year she attended it was really heartening to see how they were progressing and wished to congratulate everyone on a job well done. Mrs. Welch hoped that she would get an invitation next year again, maybe to carry some of the good things that CECU was doing to the Huggin's Credit Union.

The meeting was informed that the Huggin's Credit Union was trying to become part of the Canning's Employees' Credit Union "family" but that "matrimony" could not come about at that time. She further stated that they could not "match your money" so they were merging, hopefully later in the year, with the Harriman's Credit Union and then maybe they would be able to "match your money" and move forward.

In closing she wished CECU all the best.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Chairman informed that there were 402 registered persons attending the meeting.

Elections

The following were the results for three (3) persons to be elected to the Supervisory Committee:

Pearl Lopez	260 votes
Dian Lopez	266 votes
Roy Mahabirsingh	169 votes
Felix Edwards	161votes (alternate)

Declined nominations:

The following were the results for five (5) persons to be elected to the Credit Committee:

Calvin Francis	278 votes
Glen Piontkowski	258 votes
John Scott	240 votes
Junior Dhoray	271 votes
Rosemary Ayers	205 votes
Carl Phillip	205 votes

Declined nominations:

The Chairman asked that both Rosemary Ayers and Carl Phillip attend the next Credit Committee Meeting where they would toss a coin at that meeting.

The following were the results for four persons to be elected to the Board of Directors:

Terry-Ann Brathwaite	231 votes
Carol Roberts	223 votes
Ian Lewis	191 votes
Sean Clarke	174 votes

The first alternate is Mr. Orlando Lopez and the second alternate is Ms. Mary Fullerton. Ms. Christine Sahadeo also got 95 votes.

RESOLUTION FOR DESTRUCTION OF THE BALLOTS

Mr. Calvin Francis moved that the ballots be destroyed and it was seconded by Mr. Leo Pujadas the motion was accepted.

DOOR PRIZES

Mr. Trevor Howell, Mrs. Sandra Johnson and Mr. Ignatius Blandin were invited by the Chairman to assist in the process.

Mr. Trevor Howell apologized for not having an "award hamper" to be won whereby the guests were asked to look under their seats to get a prize. As a result they went straight into the door prizes. Prizes were given out which were won by the following numbers: 394, 380, 10, 169, 141, 431, 396, 9, 164, 356, 434, 134, 50, 189, 145, 82, 163, 140, 127, 146, 86, 363, 237, 112, 213, 399, 106, 77, 107, 142, 74, 52, 135, 198, 41, 367, 111, 48 and 379.

VOTE OF THANKS

Ms. Terri Ann Brathwaite expressed thanks to God for allowing CECU another successful year and allowing them strength and guidance. She referred to Mr. Maraj's statement that the Credit Union operated on the basis of integrity and it was following the guidance of God and that was why they were allowed to be as successful as they were.

Thanks were given to all the specially invited guests for attending and expressing their kind sentiments. She conveyed that it was appreciated greatly and it gave the Credit Union sustenance to continue in the way that they have for the past year. The Directors and Committee Members were thanked for their yeoman service over the years.

There were a lot of people who walked away better at the end of the day and that was as a result of the generous donations of the door prizes from companies such as: HiLo Food Stores Nationwide; Caribbean Bottlers Trinidad Limited; The Boss Stationary; Personal Solutions and Concepts Limited; Rotoplastics; Lever Brothers West Indies Limited and St. James Colour Shop.

The hardworking staff of the Canning's Employees' Credit Union was paid a special recognition by all present for their hard work and service.

The sponsors and associated companies were thanked for their continued support in making sure that the members remained disciplined and continued to contribute.

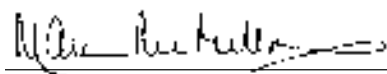
Thanks were extended to the press, the photographer Mr. Duncan, Caribbean Paper and Packaging Limited, the artist Illya Furlonge-Walker from Form and Function Design and Alvon of Vonline Art Services and the sound system technicians. Also mentioned were the caterers 'Sea View', the security provided by Securicor and Guardia Wackenhut Services, the florist 'The New Dimensions Company', P&S Rentals for the supply of tables and chairs and the Management of the Lion's Cultural Club for allowing the use of their facilities on this occasion. Special thanks were extended to the members because without them there would be no Credit Union.

Mr. Blandin gave special thanks to the members of the Board, the members of the Credit Committee, the members of the Supervisory Committee, the members of staff and all the other members who have served on all the other committees during the year.

He pointed out that for CECU to pay 8% dividend "in these hard times" when banks were paying 5% and 6%, to increase membership to 7.2%, to increase its share capital by 12.1%, to increase its total assets by 14%, to arrange two major functions was no mean feat. He further stated that all of what was done by the members of the committee was done out of love, for the Credit Union. He recalled last year that he opened up "some kind of door" so that Mr. de la Grenade could have "some form of honorarium" and he noticed that that was not taken up. He went on to give a very special thank you and show of appreciation especially to the members of the committees. Mr. de la Grenade thanked Mr. Blandin and stated that he thought that that was even better than money - the appreciation of the fact of all the work that they have done.

TERMINATION

The Chairman invited all present to accept the invitation to dinner and the meeting ended at approximately 8:30 p.m.



Secretary
Maria Mc Millan