

ADDRESS OF THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR ISAAC HYATALI, T.C.
AT THE OPENING OF THE LAW TERM IN THE HALL OF JUSTICE,
RED HOUSE, PORT- OF -SPAIN ON 3 OCTOBER, 1980

Mr. President of the Bar Association et al.

We formally begin today the 19th Law Term of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago. Sittings however of the High Court and the Court of Appeal to dispose of the matters on their respective calendars will not begin until Monday 6 October 1980.

FIFTEEN JUDGES

For the very first time in its history the High Court then will be manned by 15 judges. Two of them are practising members of the Bar who will be giving up their respective practices for three months certain at no little sacrifice to themselves to serve the Country as Judges. They are Mr. Martin Daly of the Senior Bar and Mr. Trevor Lee of the Junior Bar.

MR. JAMES DAVIS

Mr. James Davis, a practising member of the Bar, was the first to make such a sacrifice. He joined us in May for three months and at my special request continued for another two months but I regret exceedingly to say that I failed to persuade him to allow me to propose him to the Judicial and Legal Service Commission as an eminently qualified and suitable candidate for permanent judicial office on the High Court Bench. The unattractive salary and conditions of service of a Judge made it impossible for him to give serious consideration to my offer.

It is fitting to place on record, and I do so with a sense of gratitude and pleasure that he discharged his judicial duties with ability, dignity and efficiency, and that he did so in response to my appeal to fit and proper and respected members of the Bar to come forward and assist the Supreme Court to discharge its onerous

and responsible functions with greater speed and efficiency. As the very first of such members Mr. Davis made a valuable contribution to the administration of justice and I now look forward to receiving like contributions from Messrs. Daly and Lee to whom I extend a warm welcome to the Bench on behalf of my bothers and myself.

In this connexion I gratefully acknowledge the assistance and cooperation I have received from the President of the Bar Association, Mr. Selby Wooding, Q.C. through whom the offers from members of the Bar to serve on the Bench were submitted to me for transmission to the Judicial and Legal Service Commission for its consideration.

FILLING VACANCIES ON THE BENCH

It was in my opening of term address in 1978 that I referred to the retirement in December 1978 of Mr. Justice Rees, of the retirement in September 1979 of the late Mr. Justice Phillips, of the retirement in 1981 of Mr. Justice Scott and Mr. Justice Corbin and the retirement in 1982 of Mr. Justice Cross and myself. I said then that I was mentioning those developments for the purpose of pointing out that the salaries and terms of service of Judges had not only failed to make the Bench an attraction, let alone the dominant attraction as it should be, to the legal profession but that we were heading for a situation in which the brandy will have to be watered considerably to fill future vacancies on the Bench.

DISTORTION

That statement of mine was subjected to gross distortions and quoted out of context repeatedly by critics and commentators with manifestly oblique motives; but I refer to it today not for the purpose of chiding those persons for so doing but for the purpose of apprising the Executive, the legal profession and the public that the very same situation that existed in 1978 continues to exist in 1980 with the result that the Judicial and Legal Service Commission has found it impossible not only to attract from the practising Bar fit and proper persons to **the judicial**

service at both levels but also fit and proper persons **to the legal service.** Retention moreover has become an acute and insuperable problem. The recent resignation, for example, of the Assistant Solicitor General was not the first to create an additional vacancy in the Attorney General's Department. In the Solicitor General's Division alone 29 out of 37 offices are vacant. In the Criminal Law Department 11 of 28 posts are vacant, in the Legislative Drafting Department 6 out of 16 posts are vacant and in the Chief State Solicitor's Department 15 out of 23 posts are vacant. Think of the disastrous impact which such an alarming deficiency of law officers is bound to have on the quality and efficiency of the legal services rendered to Government and the public. Indeed, to extend somewhat the use of my now popular metaphor, I would say that the present position is that we have reached the point where we may well have to drown the brandy with water instead of merely watering it, in order to fill the staggering number of vacancies in the Judicial and Legal Service.

RENEWAL OF THE JUDICIARY

In a keynote address which I was privileged to deliver at the Sixth Commonwealth Conference in Lagos, Nigeria, I expressed as one of my grave concerns about the administration of justice the manner in which the renewal of the Judiciary was taking place in Commonwealth countries. What I said then is relevant in such vital respects to the situation in our County that it behoves me to seize the opportunity on this important day in our legal calendar to give a new and added emphasis to my considered views on the subject.

“Every five years”, I stated, “the politicians are required to return to the electorate for a new mandate and after the hustings are over the electoral process decides who should be re-elected or replaced. The manpower is generally drawn from the human resources within the party structure and once elected, both the legislative and the executive arms of State power quickly come into manifestation. The Judicature is not so renewed. They are not restored or replaced en bloc like the legislative and executive arms, but only one by one by reason only of retirement or resignation or, exceptionally, by dismissal.

Ideally, no man should seek the office of a Judge. Like the priesthood, only he who is invited should fill it and that only by reason of acknowledged learning in the law, impeccable integrity and wide experience of men affairs. To such a person the vocation of a judgeship would necessarily have meant the surrender of a lucrative practice. Like the priesthood also, there is attached to a judgeship the necessity of a circumspect public and private life. From such a person who accepts the honour of a judgeship sacrifices are necessarily expected. As it is said 'from him to whom much is given much is expected.'

The tendency, however, is to push the aphorism beyond utility and the general terms and conditions of judicial service are so inadequate as to deserve the description 'penurious'. Old attitudes have a tendency to persist long after the passing of those circumstances in which they were engendered and so, despite the constitutional changes which have so radically changed the status, functions and powers of the Judiciary (under the Constitution) it is still the practice to weigh judicial salaries in the same scale with salaries of officers in the public service and it is still the excuse of the Executive for the non-payment of adequate salaries that they cannot afford it. Any objective analysis of the subject, however, exposes the fact that the real question is not whether the Executive cannot afford to pay adequate salaries, but whether the Executive can afford not to do so.

The result of this Executive abdication of duty is everywhere to be seen. Only the less worthy and able seek these offices. Further no study of the need for judicial officers, whether over the short or long term, or the rate of their replacement is ever undertaken or plans devised to meet such needs at a time when new and specialised areas of law, emerging as a direct result of Executive influence on the economy, are increasingly demanding judicial attention. Chance and luck have, therefore, been the bases on which appointees to the judicial office in the post-war era have been identified. The result, of course, is that instead of renewal and regeneration, attrition and decay constitute a gnawing threat to the strength and integrity of the judiciary and attendant thereon is the ever dwindling influence of law in society. What I have said concerning judicatures under this head may equally be applied to the legal services, and anyone, who like myself have served in the judicial office over the past (two decades) recall with nostalgia the ability and brilliance of the advocacy of those 'well furnished' lawyers who appeared before us then, and yearn for the day when men of such calibre are seen at the Bar again."

DISPOSAL OF CASES

With a complement of 15 Judges in the High Court, it will be possible to assign a judge for duty in Tobago every other month if Court business warrants it, to have sitting regularly two criminal and two civil courts in San Fernando, and three criminal and seven civil courts inclusive of the Chamber and Matrimonial Courts in Port-of-Spain.

MASTERS

Moreover with the creation of two posts of Masters by the Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Act 1980, it is hoped that when their jurisdiction is settled by the Rules Committee and the posts filled, they would not only reduce considerably and eventually eliminate the present backlog with which the Chamber Court is oppressed but that the Judge assigned to the Chamber Court in future will be able to devote his time exclusively to the resolution and determination of substantial and important questions.

SIR JACK JACOBS

In consequence of discussions I held with Sir Jack Jacobs, Senior Master of the Supreme Court of England on my return journey from two Conferences in Australia, he agreed to have two citizens of Trinidad and Tobago attached to his office for training in and exposure to the functions and responsibilities of Master. Mr. Conrad Douglin, our Registrar, was in the result posted to Sir Jack Jacobs' office in London from 30th June to 31 July 1980 where he underwent a course of training that was both intensive and extensive and gained experience of the working of a Master's office which was invaluable. He followed this up with a week's attachment to Osgoode Hall, the seat of the Supreme Court of Ontario, where he sat with the Masters of that Court, studied the system which they followed and gained useful knowledge and experience from his association with them. This was made possible by the introductions of Mr. Lloyd Perry, Q.C., Official Guardian of the Province of Ontario to whom our Judiciary is most grateful.

With respect to the selection of another citizen for attachment to Sir Jack Jacobs, none has yet been made. It has not been easy to do so. I have made efforts to attract a practising solicitor but there is only a slim chance and I shall receive a favourable reply.

VISIT OF SIR JACK TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The legal profession will be delighted to learn, I am sure, that Sir Jack Jacobs will be visiting this Country on 2 January 1981 for a period of at least two weeks as the guest of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago to undertake a number of important engagements. The chief of them will be to examine and to recommend such reforms as may be necessary to improve –

- (1) the practice and procedure in the civil courts;
- (2) the structure and organisation of the civil courts;
- (3) the organisation of the Registry of the Supreme Court and the methods employed to service the needs of the public and the civil courts;
- (4) the machinery of justice in the civil courts in general.

Sir Jack, as many of you would know, is a Queen's Counsel, a Bachelor of Laws, an honorary Doctor of Laws, the Senior Master of the Supreme Court and Queen's Remembrancer, the General Editor of the Supreme Court Practice (The White Book), a Fellow and Visiting Professor of English Law at London University, an Hon. Bencher of Gray's Inn and President of the Association of Law Teachers. He has expressed a desire to meet and hold discussions with Law Students, Lawyers, the members of the two levels of the Judiciary, the Law Commission, the Senior officers of the Attorney General's Department and has even agreed to deliver a lecture or two on appropriate subjects.

Sir Jack is a strong advocate of the reform of procedural law and his views on this subject were graphically expressed in an article recently published in "The Law Teacher of July 1980". He said:

"In short the main thrust of procedural reforms should be to 'de-mystify' the entire legal machinery, to encourage rather than inhibit people to resort to the courts and tribunals, to reduce the complexities and uncertainties of the judicial process, to remove the fear and even the stigma of being involved in the litigation process, and to make the machinery of civil justice more smooth, speedy, simple and inexpensive, and free from technicalities."

We are indeed very fortunate to have a scholar and lawyer of Sir Jack's eminence to visit this Country for the purposes mentioned and I invite the assistance and cooperation of Mr. President of the Bar Association, Mr. President of the Law Society and their respective members, to ensure that Sir Jack's stay in this Country is a useful and profitable one to us and a rewarding and enjoyable one to him. I shall in due course give you further details.

COURTS AT CIPRIANI PLACE

The transfer of the Civil Courts at Cipriani Place was rendered necessary by the dilapidated condition of considerable areas of the Red House and in consultation with the Bar and the Law Society arrangements were made for the transfer. Judges and lawyers now work there in a much healthier and comfortable atmosphere and while there are still a few difficulties to overcome, the removal of the Civil Courts to that location has been, I venture to suggest, a boon to the staff, the public the practitioners and above all to the Judges. Never in their history have Judges worked in such agreeable surroundings.

NEW HALL OF JUSTICE

And yet what they and the profession happily enjoy now at Cipriani Place will suffer by comparison with the appointments, accommodation and conveniences that are being provided in the New Hall of Justice whose foundation stone was laid by the Hon. Attorney General and myself on 1st November 1979. When this

edifice is completed, hopefully by the end of 1982, a long-cherished dream of the Judges, the legal profession and the public will have been realised since it will be an edifice that will magnificently reflect the deep respect and strong attachment which our Country possesses for justice according to law and under the Rule of Law.

COMMONWEALTH MAGISTRATES CONFERENCE

The first important function expected to take place in the Auditorium of the Hall of Justice is the opening ceremony in September 1982 of the Commonwealth Magistrates Conference at which the Lord Chancellor of England, the Lord Denning, Honorary Vice President of the Commonwealth Magistrates Association, Tun Mohammed Suffian, President of the Federal Supreme Court of Malaysia and President of the Commonwealth Magistrates Association and several Chief Justices and Judges are expected to be present. It will be one of the most important legal events to take place in this Country and the Chief Magistrate, Mr. Roland Crawford, deserves our warmest congratulations for persuading the executive of the Association to hold the Conference here in 1982.

Our warmest thanks must be expressed to the Government for the steps taken to provide the Judiciary and the public with such a magnificent structure to house the Supreme Court of this Country and for readily giving its approval for the Commonwealth Magistrates Association to hold its Sixth Commonwealth Conference in Trinidad and Tobago. To ensure the success of the Conference, it will be essential for us to receive the wholehearted cooperation and support of the legal profession and I now appeal to you for nothing more but certainly nothing less than that.

SIR HUGH WOODING LAW SCHOOL

Another event for gratification and gratitude is the step taken to construct a new building to house the Sir Hugh Wooding Law School at St. Augustine. A sod

turning ceremony to mark the commencement of its construction and in which the President of the Republic, Mr. Ellis Clarke, the Hon. Attorney General Senator Selwyn Richardson and the Director of Legal Education, Mr. H. Aubrey Fraser, participated, took place on 19 July 1980. Speeches of a very high quality were made on that occasion but the tribute paid to the late Sir Hugh Wooding, the first Chief Justice of independent Trinidad and Tobago by the President, deserves special mention and it is to be hoped that the Editors of 'The Lawyer' will see to it that it finds a prominent place within its columns.

SITE OF NEW SCHOOL

Glad as I am that a new Law School is at last being constructed I am unhappy that a site in Port-of-Spain nearer to the Courts of the Country was not found for it. One of the primary purposes of the Law School is to provide practical training for lawyers to be. This can only be achieved successfully by securing the services of practising lawyers not only to lecture to the students but to provide them with daily opportunities of seeing the Courts at work. The siting of the Law School at St. Augustine will not effectively promote the true objects of the Law School in my view and I can only hope that some means of overcoming the difficulty to which I have referred will be found.

The Law School at St. Augustine has so far had a chequered existence and an unhappy career; and from 'rumblings in the air' if I may put it that way it would seem that it is still not out of the woods. Successful practitioners in the profession can do a great deal to rescue the School from its present predicament and both the Bar Association and the Law Society should not only accept that it has a solemn duty in this regard but should take positive action to ensure that it is duly discharged.

ANGLO-CARIBBEAN JUDICIAL EXCHANGE

A unique event in our judicial careers occurred when we had the great pleasure of welcoming to this Country the Rt. Hon. Lord Diplock, a Senior Law Lord of the House of Lords and of the Privy Council, Milmo and Kilner-Brown, JJ. of the High Court of England and Lord Wylie of Scotland.

They not only sat in our Courts but held lively discussions with our magistrates, judges, lawyers and law students on law, the administration of justice and related matters. Their visits to this Country, Barbados and Jamaica were undertaken in pursuance of an agreement reached on an Anglo-Caribbean Judicial Exchange for which the Governments of these three countries had given their approval. Lord Diplock aptly describing himself as a member of the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago by reason of his membership on the Privy Council, our final Court of Appeal under the Constitution, delivered a stimulating and thought-provoking lecture on the Role of the Judiciary in a Developing Society at the Hilton Hotel at which the President of the Republic presided. This was followed by discussions between the legal profession and the visitors and a successful and enjoyable reception hosted jointly by the Bar Association and the Law Society.

CARIBBEAN JUDICIAL EXCHANGE

The visit of Lord Diplock and his team was preceded by a visit to England and Scotland by Judges of the Caribbean two of whom were Corbin, J.A. of the Court of Appeal and Bernard, J. of the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago. The Exchange ended at Jamaica where the experiences and knowledge gained by both teams of Judges were reviewed and discussed. One of the suggestions emanating from these discussions was that a Caribbean Exchange of Judges ought to be inaugurated. It is felt that this is an excellent idea and that positive steps should be taken to develop and pursue it. Both the United Kingdom and Caribbean Judges benefited considerably from the Exchange and it has been suggested that the exercise should be repeated at least every four or five years.

SECOND MAGISTRATES WORKSHOP

Another judicial event of a significance occurred on 13 and 14 September 1980 when under the guidance and inspiration of the Chief Magistrate, Mr. Roland Crawford, the Second Magistrates' Workshop was successfully launched. Among those participating in it were the Chief Justice of Belize, Mr. Justice A.L. Staine, Professor Keith Patchett of the University of Wales, Professor A.N. Allott of London University, Mr. Lloyd Perry, Q.C., Official Guardian of Ontario, the Hon. Attorney General Senator Selwyn Richardson, Mr. Selby Wooding, Q.C., President of the Bar Association, Dr. Edward Watkins, Chairman of the Law Reform Commission, Mr. Oswald Wilson, President of the Law Society and the Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago.

THE PRESIDENT'S PLEA

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THE PRESIDENT'S PLEA

The Workshop was declared open by the President of the Republic who in an excellent address that gripped his audience throughout, praised the work done by magistrates in dispensing justice in the community and made a strong and stirring plea on their behalf for better salaries and conditions of service.

It is regrettable that the recommendations made by the Salaries Review Commission in their favour since July 1979 have not been implemented but at least a ray of hope was held out when the Hon. Attorney General in his contribution towards the end of the Workshop assured the magistrates that new salaries for them would be provided for in the 1981 budget and that hopefully they should have something worthwhile in their pockets for Christmas.

FUSION

During the month of May while I was attending the Conference of Appellate Judges and of Commonwealth Chief Justices in Australia my locum tenens Mr. Justice Corbin received a resolution in support of fusion passed at a Special General Meeting of the Bar Association on 14 May 1980..

I have always held the view and so expressed it from time to time that Fusion of the Professions is a question that should be resolved by the Bar and the Law Society in the first place – that if it was the consensus among members of both branches of the profession that they should be fused then Government ought to give it favourable consideration and implement their wishes. I am still of that opinion. Members of the profession will recall that a Bill providing for fusion was published for public comment but that it was shelved for two years because the consensus of which I speak was lacking.

I do not know at the moment what is the present view of the solicitors. I have received no communication from them on the subject. The point I should like to make clear however is that the Chief Justice is not and I repeat not the authority to decide this question. The question is one for the Government to determine as as a matter of policy after the views of both the solicitors and barristers have been duly expressed. The public interest however is deeply involved here and Government must of necessity consider it carefully before making a decision.

IN HOUSE COUNSEL AND ONE COUNSEL RULE

During that same period a letter was received communicating two decisions taken at a joint meeting of the Bar Association and the Law Society. They related to In House Counsel and solicitors and the One Counsel Rule. With respect to the letter it was recommended to me that paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Resolution of the English Bar Council passed on 31 May 1977 should be adopted. This is a convenient opportunity to state that I accept the recommendation and will take steps to have it implemented after consulting with the Rules Committee.

With respect to the former I think it would be only fair to hear the views of the representatives of all In House Counsel and solicitors before reaching a conclusion. I shall accordingly proceed to do this and, if necessary, hold discussions thereafter with the Bar Association and the Law Society on the matter.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

I am happy to place on record that the Barristers' Disciplinary committee is now fully operative under the Chairmanship of the Solicitor General, Mrs. Jean Permanand. This has been due largely to the amendment of the Rules of 7 March 1980 to provide for an enlarged membership of 15, the removal of the provisions which made it essential for the constitution of a quorum, the presence of at least one member of the Inner Bar at a meeting of the Division of the Committee and three members of the Inner Bar at a meeting of the whole Committee. The suggested amendment was made on the recommendation of the Bar Association which I am pleased to note has made considerable progress under the leadership of its President, Mr. Selby Wooding, Q.C. in establishing itself as a united, vibrant and respected organisation in the Country. I gratefully acknowledge the assistance and cooperation I had had from him during the past year and extend my best wishes to him for another highly successful term of office.

COURT STATISTICS

I pass on now o the work load facing the Courts. In the Court of Appeal there are at the moment 100 appeals ready for hearing. All but 20 of them are listed for hearing in October. The work of this Court is well in hand and gives no cause for concern.

From statistics supplied to me by the Registry of the High Court it appears that in Port-of-Spain between 1 October 1979 and 31st July 1980, 10,265 matters were listed in the Civil, Matrimonial, Motions and Chamber Courts. Out of this number 3,915 were disposed of during that period leaving 6,350 matters in arrear. To this must be added 617 new matters which make the total number of matters on the Civil List to be determined 6,967. During that same period in Port-of-Spain 459 criminal indictments were listed at the Assizes out of which 94 were determined leaving 365 in arrear.

In San Fernando the statistics disclose that 921 civil actions have been set down on the General List but they do not reveal how many actions were listed for the period 1 October to 31 July 1979 or how many were disposed of during that period. Listed for hearing in the Chamber and Motions Court are 350 matters; in the Matrimonial Court 277 matters; and in the Judgment Summons Court 207 matters making a grand total of 1,755 matters on the list for determination. On the criminal side during that period, 262 cases were listed out of which 93 were determined.

The Gaol Delivery at the end of August 1980 showed that there were 110 persons in custody awaiting trial at the Port-of-Spain Assizes and 52 at the San Fernando Assizes. Out of that number 35 in Port-of-Spain and 27 in San Fernando are accused of murder. The number of convicted and condemned persons awaiting the hearing of their appeals here or in the Privy Council stand at 26, while other prisoners awaiting the disposal of their appeals number 21.

I have not received any figures for Tobago but the comment I would like to make on this occasion is that after a period of almost two years of importunate pleas, petitions and representations, the Hall of Justice there continues to be in a state of dilapidation. Indeed, having regard to what I and my brother Scott, J.A. experienced when the Court of Appeal sat there in July last, it would be completely accurate to say that this Hall of Justice, dubbed once as the pride of the Caribbean, is unfit for judicial habitation. Mr. Attorney General and I have paid several visits to this Court, made repeated representations to those whose responsibility it is to remedy the situation but all this has been to no avail. The failure to act on these representations constitutes, in my opinion, a classic example of how the independence of the Judiciary can be eroded by the omission of the Executive to provide the essentials to keep the machinery of justice in proper working order. Indeed, as I said in my address at the Second Magistrates' Workshop, it is not generally appreciated that the provisions of the Constitution which are designed to secure the independence of the Judiciary are no guarantee whatever that the machinery and resources which are indispensable to the proper discharge of the judicial function will be necessarily or duly supplied; and that despite the valiant and indefatigable efforts of the Attorney General the instances were legion where they have not been. Time will not permit me to deal with other instances so I must pass on.

The statistics which I have presented to you show what a formidable task lies ahead for the High Court Judges. The increase in the magistrates jurisdiction on both the civil and criminal sides by the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 1980 (No. 3 of 1980) will relieve the High Court of an appreciable number of cases but it is still too early to assess the real impact which this increase in magisterial jurisdiction will have on the civil and criminal lists in the High Court.

Whatever the impact might be, the stark reality is that the lists are heavily laden with cases and that we must all, Judges and Practitioners alike, put our

shoulders to the wheel, and do our best so far as we can under prevailing circumstances, to see that speedy and impartial justice is dispensed not only between citizen and citizen but between the citizen and the State.

In this connexion I would like to commend for the earnest consideration of solicitors, counsel and judges Mr. Michael de la Bastide's eloquent speech in the Senate on a Bill to amend the Supreme Court of Judicature Act by increasing the number of Judges from 12 to 15. It was a well-balanced, constructive and timely speech on the Judiciary, the legal profession and the administration of justice and in particular I would commend to you his quotation from a judgment delivered in 1974 by Megarry, J. as he then was in a case in which he said:

“... justice according to law is a co-operative process to which solicitors, counsel and judges all make their contributions. No judge can perform his duties adequately and efficiently without the great assistance from counsel and solicitors that is traditional. The gratitude for this assistance that is sometimes expressed from the Bench is genuine indeed and correlative to that gratitude is the duty of the Bench to take whatever steps may be appropriate to see that the ancient standards are fully maintained.”

NEW ROBES

You will recall that in my address last year I intimated that in recognition of our new status as a Republic I discussed designs for new robes for judges and counsel, and that a firm in London had submitted designs to me for the designs to me for the consideration of the Judges and members of the Bar. I did hold these discussions with my brothers and representatives of the Bar and certain amendments were suggested which I communicated to the firm. The robe I am wearing today represents the basic design of what is proposed. The robes of Senior Counsel will be trimmed in green silk, the robes of Judges in red silk with certain additions for the Chief Justice and the robes of Junior Counsel will be without trimmings. I have worn this specimen robe today to enable members of the Bar to have a view of them. I now have with me details of the cost and other relevant information from the firm, which is Northam & Co. and will present them

to the President of the Bar Association in due course for the consideration of the members of the Bar.

I have now come to the end. On behalf of my brothers and myself I should like to thank the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Randolph Burroughs and his officers for the splendid display to which they treated us this morning, Father Garfield Rochard for conducting the service this morning, Rev. Gerald Chen for his inspiring sermon, the Rt. Rev. Gerald Chen for his inspiring sermon, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Denny, Pundit Mahadeo Sharma and Iman Hassan Karimullah for their inspiring prayers, the Rt. Rev. Clive Abdulah, Bishop of Trinidad and Tobago for his blessings, and all those who participated in the service and helped with the arrangements for today's ceremonial opening of the term. When we meet here at the next opening of the law term Corbin and Scott, JJ.A. will have retired from the Bench but we do hope that they will continue to attend our annual ceremony, and in particular the Church Service preceding it to give us their moral and physical support as we utter in silence the sacred judges' prayer for:

‘the spirit of discernment
the spirit of uprightness and
the spirit of understanding.’

I now formally open the law term and adjourn the sittings of the Supreme Court .
Monday 6, October 1980.