

the remainder going to the local governments. Postal matters under the contemplated union will come under the central government, but the colonies which derive benefits from postal services may claim subsidies in compensation for losses sustained through the transfer of administration.

The report also points out that all colonies shall have the right to float loans in their own territory, but that foreign loans shall come under the jurisdiction of the central authorities. The latter shall also distribute any special subsidies granted by the British Treasury to those colonies whose revenues are inadequate. These grants which, it is expected, will be continued, even under the federal system, for a period of at least ten years, will take the form of an annual subsidy equal to the average of all subsidies granted during the five years prior to the federation. Should such subsidies prove inadequate, the central authorities may supplement them by drawing from their own revenue; should the latter be inadequate, the central authority may then apply directly to London. It is expected that this provision may induce the federal government and, therefore, each of the constituent parties, to practice economies and to depend first of all upon themselves. The federal government will, however, continue to receive the assistance provided by the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. According to the Report, the annual cost of the federal plan will be about £180,000 for the first years.

Legislature

It is recommended that the federal legislature be composed of two chambers, a legislative assembly and a senate. The legislative assembly, whose members will be elected directly by the people*, shall be composed of fifty deputies, divided as follows: Jamaica, 16; Trinidad, 9; British Guiana, 6; Barbados, 4; other colonies, two each; (except Montserrat which shall have one). The senate shall be composed of twenty-three members (two for each territory, except Montserrat which shall have one), appointed by the head of the state.

The legislative assembly shall legislate on all matters, except those reserved to the governor general. The senate, on the other hand, shall not postpone the adoption of a bill beyond a period of twelve months. The assembly will have priority over the senate, whose main function will be to protect the interests of each of the colonies making up the federation.

The Executive

According to the recommendations of the Report, the executive shall consist of a governor general appointed by the King and of a state council (or executive council) of fourteen members. The members of the legislative assembly shall elect one of their members to the post of "prime minister", who shall then select seven other "ministers" or members of the Council, either from the legislative assembly or the senate. The governor general shall then appoint the six other members of the executive council, but shall, however, select three of them from the members of either chamber. The state council shall formulate the policy of the government and shall be responsible to the legislature for carrying it out. The governor general shall follow the advice of his ministers on any bill previously adopted by both chambers, except for certain matters submitted to his right of veto and dealing with defence, external relations, some financial matters, as well as the maintenance of law and order and of public utilities in case of emergency.

The Report also provides for the establishment of a federal supreme court which shall hear certain cases as determined by the constitution, as well as appeals from local or regional courts.

* Except for the first election which shall be held according to the regulations in effect in each colony.