

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Royal Recognition for Freeport

Nowhere in what little remains of a once global British Empire nor in today's more flexible British Commonwealth is anything happening which is quite as significant as the development of the City of Freeport.

A few men of greatness are responsible for carving this modern city out of the virgin pine forests and laying the groundwork for a truly great city; a city with industrial stability as well as a resort trade.

Already the Treasury of the Bahamas Government is accruing the benefits of this imaginative, bold move. Thanks to an intrepid developer, Wallace Groves, and to those who have thrown their own resources and personal futures behind him, and thanks as well to farsighted Government leaders who made all this possible, the annual income of the Bahamas Government is being swelled and thousands of Bahamians look to a much brighter tomorrow than could have been dreamed of a generation ago.

With this new city, the Bahamas have taken a giant step towards a well-balanced economy, one which will not always be dependent upon the tourist trade.

The Mosvold interests, we understand, are planning to increase their already-substantial investments by creating ship repair facilities capable of handling the largest carriers on the seven seas. Freeport Bunkering ranks among the great bunkering stations of the world and the \$50 Million cement plant put up by US Steel has blazed an economic trail to the Bahamas for large industrial investments.

Mr. Groves recently appointed a proven "salesman" to bring more multi-million-dollar industrial investments here.

How can one express appreciation to those with vision, determination and business acumen who saw this project through? Money is not sufficient return. There are easier and less chancy ways of making a profit than putting millions of pounds into an island which had little going for it except a good geographical position. Further, it would be impossible to assess in terms of dollars or pounds-shilling-and-pence the invaluable service done to this section of Mankind by the creator of Freeport.

Fortunately the British system does provide a more appropriate means of expressing gratitude and admiration. Already, four Bahamians have been granted such recognition.

We would like to take this opportunity to suggest that inclusion of Mr. Wallace Groves on Her Majesty's next Honours list would be very much in order. A second person's name also should be considered; that of Charles Hayward, a leading British industrialist who along with Mr. Groves played a major role in the most exciting contemporary development in Her Majesty's realm.