the rule of the «Gros Bourgs» and the DUPP led by Franklin Baron. DUPP never had any interest in improving living standards for the majority of the population. The bourgeois were owners of big estates like Howel Shillingford, JAS Garraway, R.B. Douglas, J.B. Charles and Frobel Laville and big businessmen like Astaphan, Nassief and Baron himself. They made their living, as they always do, by paying workers low wages, giving small farmers next to nothing for their crops, charging high rates of interest on loans and by placing very high prices on goods and services consumers bought in their shops and stores. So, in running for elections their only intention was, as it still is, to get political power to increase the economic power they already have so they can make more profits for themselves and press the suffering poor under even greater hardships.

The Labour Party Goverment started to give some hope to the poor. They built schools, constructed roads, brought electricity to villages where DUPP said it could not reach, opened up the Civil Service to sons and daughters of the poor and tried to put an end to discrimination based on skin colour. But, as you know now, these measures were not enough to free the Poor Man from Bourgeois Bondage. Instead of dealing with the root cause of the disease, the Labour Party only treated the symptoms. So, although the working man got a feeling of pride, his material condition did not really improve.

After Associate Statehood in 1967 the Government began to run into trouble. They did not know what to do to help the poor. That is because they did not have a scientific view of development, lacked proper direction and, therefore, approached problems of the country on a day-to-day basis rather than through planning and implementing definite strategies for development. In desperation, they turned for help to the same class of people whom the Party had sworn to put in their place so that the hardworking common man would get a chance to live a decent life. They turned to bourgeois like Astaphan, Jojo Karam, Brisbane and Armour. True to their colours, these bourgeois took over the Party, changed what it stood for and put the interest of the bourgeois back at the top and that of the Poor Man down at the bottom.

Since then, the only thing the masses of workers, small farmers, fishermen, elderly and unemployed youth have known is endless misery. Patrick John only made bad matters worse. So, in June 1979, his regime was overthrown, and Oliver Seraphin took over as Interim Prime Minister.

It is clear then, people of Dominica, that if the rich become rich by exploiting the poor, and the poor become poor through exploitation by the rich, you cannot at one and the same time serve the interest of both the rich and the poor. You have got to choose one or the other. The Labour Party tried to serve rich and poor alike, and failed to serve the poor at all.

Over and over again, for twelve years now, we in the Dominica Liberation Movement – Alliance have been saying this. There can be no peace and no social progress until exploitation of labour is brought to a halt. The stages and forms through which the long struggle to do this passes differ from place to place, and are dependent upon the particular situation facing the country. We in Dominica must embark upon the road of National Democracy. Not the so-called democracy we have here that gives us the right to vote every five years and allows the bourgeois to live in comfort while the poor live in misery. But a system under which the needs and well-being of all working people are secured and protected in all areas of life. These are the cardinal principles and positions that guide the DLM-Alliance.

Our Party has not been a Party of mere words. We have blended words with action. Over the years we have helped all categories of workers and working people to organise themselves. We have taught them what their real rights and freedoms are. And we have courageously fought alongside them for better working conditions. Neither police guns and teargas nor malicious lies and propaganda have restrained us. Most people know the important part we played in protecting the Banana Industry from the Leaf Spot epidemic, saving farmers lands from the Freeport of Don Pierson and the North from South African slavery and in bringing the country back to normal after the ravages of Hurricane David. And all Dominicans know it is the Alliance all by itself that saved them from further slavery under the new Intercontinental Freeport Company and is now fighting to get farmers all their Banana Rehabilitation money.

So, the case before you, voters of Dominica, is whether you choose as your next Government the Labour Shoe Party of Patrick John which whipped the poor man for a good 20 years before it was kicked out of power by the poor man himself. Whether you choose the Freedom Party which you have rejected ever since 1970 because you know fully well that although it goes by a different name, the Freedom Party is the same old DUPP with the same kind of greedy bourgeois who, despite their nice-sounding words and phrases, have the same plan as the DUPP to put the poor people of this country right under the heel of the Gros Bourgs here, and their friends abroad. Whether you choose that bunch of unprincipled, corrupt traitors calling themselves Democratic Labour Party who, by turning their backs on the will of the people, making a complete mess of Reconstruction, engaging in all manner of corrupt practice and severely staining the name of Dominica abroad, have admitted their utter unfitness to lead our country forward to progress. Or whether you elect as your next Government our Dominica Liberation Movement-Alliance team of honest, highly-educated and courageous Dominicans who have demonstrated over the last twelve years both in words and more so, in action that we stand unshakeably on the side of the poor, hardworking man and woman of this country.