expansion of the industry, while ensuring the strictest adherance to land use studies which identify the areas most suitable for coconut growing.

Promote the operation of cooperative and individual copra dryers by giving active support to the already existing loan sheme operating in the industry.

Strengthen Government's support to the major processing enterprise in the industry, Dominica Coconut Products ltd., by :

* Ensuring sufficient supplies of copra to the factory to permit operation much closer to factory capacity ;

* Establish closer contact with the Dominica Coconut Products so that Government is kept fully abreast of steps needed at a National level to ensure the sustained growth of the industry, and its expansion into other product lines ;

* Close study of the system of farmer involvement designed by Dominica Coconut Product, and arranging for assistance from the company for setting up major agricultural industries ;

* Close monitoring of the Oils and Fats Agreement to ensure improving condition of trade for coconut products.

BAY OIL AND OTHER ESSENTIAL OILS

This industry has been neglected by Government for a long time but is in fact the foundation upon which a very vital and profitable essential oils industry can be built.

The DLM-Alliance Government would work closely with the Bay Oil Cooperative to accomplish the following :

*Assist the Coop. in reorganising and strengthening service to Bay producers.

* A vibrant overseas marketing thrust.

* Research and pilot projects aimed at improving the output of local stills ;

* Pilot projects in the areas of secondary processing aimed at manufacturing other products from Bay Oil (perfumes, bath oils, colognes, etc.) and the setting up of a major factory in the South-East, to do this.

* Efforts at integrating the production of these new products with the soap-making industry operating at Dominica Coconut Products Ltd.

*Location of training opportunities for administrative and technical personnel in the Cooperative.

*Encouragement, with support from the Cooperative Division and the Dominica Farmers' Union, of a vibrant education programme among Bay Oil producers.

* With support from CARDATS and the Division of Agriculture, seek to introduce a system of multiple cropping that would steady the year round earnings of Bay farmers.

*Promotion and expansion of the production of other crops such as vertiver, lime, vanilla, parchouli, ginger, cardamon, and others, all with potential for fueling new essential oil agro-industrial activity.

SUGAR CANE

We cannot claim to have a cane industry in Dominica, but for a number of farmers in the South, West Coast and in parts of the East, sugar cane production is most important. All our cane has gone into rum production in the past, creating a situation where rising costs in rum production forced the price of cane to remain too low to provide a profit margin for the farmer.

The DLM-Alliance Government, shall take the following steps to strengthen the small but potentially lucrative cane industry :

* Assist in the reorganisation of the Cane Farmers' Cooperative to strengthen management and provide technical support to members ;

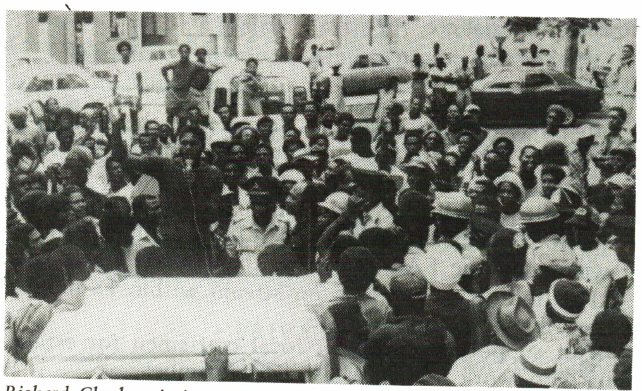
* Arrange for Dominica Distilleries Ltd. to provide firm contracts at guaranteed prices to the Cane Farmers Cooperative.

* Through the Cooperative and other appropriate agencies such as the AID-Bank arrange for credit facilities to cane farmers.

* Through the Agrarian Reform Programme ensure land to landless cane farmers and regularise all tenancy arrangements now operational.

* With assistance from the Cane Industries of Trinidad, Barbados, Jamaica, ensure the injection of appropriate new technology in the form of new varieties, fertilizers and husbandry practices.

* The setting up of a sugar factory to coincide with increased production for sugarcane.



Richard Charles, Assistant General Secretary of the Farmers Union, leads one of the many demonstrations of farmers demanding full Banana. Rehabilitation subsidy payment from Minister of Finance and Agriculture.

FOOD PRODUCTION

At the heart of any plans for an improved standard of living, greater productivity, self-reliance and sustained economic growth of the nation, is our ability as an agricultural country, to feed ourselves properly and at a cost which our pockets and our environment can stand.

The DLM-Alliance Government, with the full cooperation of local staff, appropriate regional (CARDI, CARDATS, CDB, UWI) and international agencies (UNDP, FAO, OAS, EDF) shall expand the Emergency Food Production Programme which followed Hurricane David, into a full-fledged, permanent food production industry capable of supplying fresh produce and raw material for food processing industries.

LIVESTOCK

The active promotion of a strong Livestock industry, with special emphasis on milk and meat