

SIR GEORGE ALLEYNE & A DECADE OF MEMORIAL LECTURES

*Lorna Callender, The Democrat Newspaper, St Kitts and Nevis
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“A Range of Choices”. This is what a good economy and good health will confer on you. And a satisfactory range of choices contributes to one’s quality of life and human well being.

To the layman this appears to be the theme running through Sir George Alleyne’s Lecture, the 11th Sir Arthur Lewis lecture in the Series, and indeed it can be construed to be the theme of the decade of Memorial lectures published in a book and launched on the same evening of the 11th Memorial Lecture.

Sir George introduced the health factor into the economic equation, and clearly showed that a nation’s Health contributes decisively to any nation’s Wealth. To validate his argument he began his lecture by linking it to a quote from Sir Arthur that he admits he frequently uses:

“The advantage of economic growth is not that wealth increases happiness, but that it increases the range of human choice”

Sir George went on to contend

“that the capability of being healthy gives us a certain freedom to choose among life’s options. I also argue that we wish health to be expressed not only as an extension beyond the biblical three score and ten, but we wish those days to be free of disability so that we can explore and enjoy the choices that this life has to offer. But in addition, health increases the range of human choice because it does increase our material wealth.”

Sir George’s dissertation enriched the overall contributions that had gone before and that had sought to ‘flesh out’ the innovative thinking that Sir Arthur Lewis had brought to the whole Economic Debate theory and its applicability to developing countries and the human condition.

The book that was launched on the same evening of the lecture, embodying the ten annual memorial lectures given from 1996-2005, is fittingly called *ECONOMIC THEORY & DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS for the Caribbean*.

It will serve as a remarkable addition to the literature of Caribbean Thought and will immortalise the contemporary thinking of outstanding Caribbean Scholars such as Rex Nettleford, Alister McIntyre, Norman Girvan, Lloyd Best, Kari Levit, Marius St. Rose and Clive Thomas. “The other scholars,” according to Sir Dwight, Governor of ECCB, “are well known internationally and two of them, Alan Blinder and Joseph Stiglitz (another Nobel laureate), were colleagues of Sir Arthur at Princeton University. The

other, Gerald Meier, is one of the major authors and chroniclers of development theory and policy and editor of *Pioneers in Development* in which Lewis's work is highlighted as the leading pioneer."

By widening the range of Lecturers, Sir Dwight has created a robust body of thought perpetuating the innovative thinking and clarity of logic initiated by Sir Arthur himself. Hitherto, whereas the Economic Theories of Development tended to stand alone, divorced from other aspects of the human condition, we now find added to them, the inclusion of aspects as wide ranging as culture and access to education, deeper regional integration, development of new products, sovereignty/efficiency balance, trade in services, the role of remittances and now the importance of good health is being underscored.

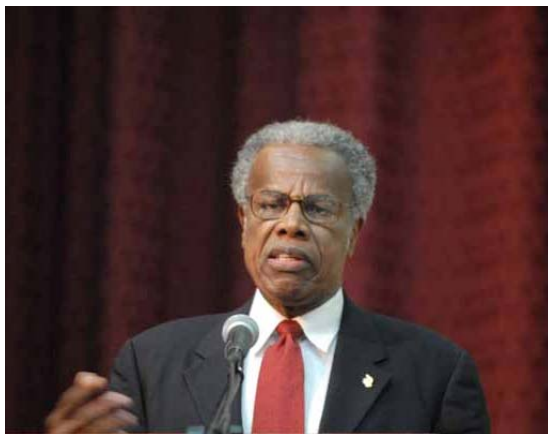
This is an important and lasting contribution to the continuing education of our developing Caribbean scholars and Sir Dwight must be heartily congratulated for the birth of this book.

The gathering was graced with the presence of Sir Arthur's wife who unveiled the banner describing the book and thus formally launched it into existence.

The evening of the Memorial Lecture (Monday 13th November 2006) was further enhanced by the attendance of Commercial Bankers from 14 Caribbean countries and on this occasion presentations of Best Corporate Citizen Awards were made to the deserving winners.

Right: Lady Lewis unveiling the publication "*Economic Theory and Development Options for the Caribbean – The Sir Arthur Lewis Memorial Lectures 1996 – 2005*"

Below: Sir George Alleyne
Chancellor, University of the West Indies,
delivering the 11th Sir Arthur Lewis Lecture



*Photos by Leroy Willett,
Willett's Photo Studio, St Kitts*

