

# Grantley Adams and the Integration Movement



*Grantley Adams*

- He attended conferences of West Indian labor leaders to consider an umbrella group for Trade Unions
- He was elected a member of the Executive Committee of the Trade Union Congress.
- He took part in the Conference held in Trinidad that called for urgent legislative reforms
- He moved the adoption of a bill which he had drafted as the nucleus of the Constitution for a federated West Indies.
- In this draft bill he laid down the fundamental principle that the federation of the British territories in the Caribbean was on the basis of self government
- At a meeting in 1945 he stressed that each colony should be allowed to work out its own pattern given the fact that they are at different stages of political development.
- He argued for a loose federation.

- In his words, the federal government should be given sufficient and definite powers to ensure the success of a program of economic development and expansion that is originated and directed by the leaders of the Caribbean
- At the fourth conference of the congress held in Barbados Adams and his Barbados Labour Party acted as host to the delegates.
- He put forward the case for a new series of textbooks for the West Indies that is written from the West Indian perspective.
- At Adam's suggestion, the Barbados conference approved Secretary of State for the colonies proposal that the opinion of the colonial legislatures be obtained and a meeting of delegates be held at an early date to facilitate this.
- Adam's strongly supported Richard Hart (Jamaica) argument that the development of the area as an economic entity was the only way of creating a stable and self supporting economy. This was only possible they continued if such a program of development and expansion is directed by the West Indies under the unified control of a federal constitution
- He looked at the question of constitutional freedom and responsible government
- He was elected second vice president of the Caribbean Labor Congress.
- He became the first Prime Minister of the West Indian Federation.