

Role Cards

BRI SAMUEL MP for Mid-Island – a member of the SPNIP (Government Party)

You are the Minister of Education in the Government and much concerned to save the island's traditions and its heritage. You are suspicious of development projects that might wreck this by pushing and changing things too quickly. Your own constituency is full of banana farms and has the best land on the island.

- Q** Does the hotel complex threaten to change things too fast? Will you support your Prime Minister (Sam Wells) even if you are not as certain about the merits of the proposal as he is?

JAY RAMIREZ MP for Purple River – a member of the SPNIP (Government Party)

You came to St Philip from Puerto Rico 20 years ago. You are Minister of Labour in the present Government and deeply aware that there is a lot of unemployment on the island. Your friendship with the Prime Minister (Sam Wells) is an uneasy one; you think he sees you as a rival for the leadership of the party. But would they let anyone who was not born on the island be Prime Minister? A rising tide of unemployed people are drifting to the outskirts of Purple River and building shanty dwellings of corrugated iron on wasteland.

- Q** Would the hotel proposal significantly improve employment prospects? If so, is it worth supporting, whatever the 'strings attached'? Would a new complex in the north of the island make any difference to Purple River, which is in the extreme south?

FRANKIE SMYTHE MP for Western Margins – a member of the UPSP (Opposition Party)

You run an export business in Queenstown. You were Prime Minister a few years ago, just after independence was granted – you tried, at the time, to raise loans in the USA and Canada but were unsuccessful. The gradually worsening financial position led to the United Party's fall from power and Sam Wells took over. Your constituency had banana farms and some small resort hotels and beaches.

- Q** If the hotel complex plan goes ahead, would it affect your own constituents? Is it good for the island as a whole? Which of these two matters should you put first?

CHRIS BALLINGER MP for Mountain – a member of the the UPSP (Opposition Party)

Your constituency includes many of the poorest banana farms, and many of these are on the verge of bankruptcy. You want help for the banana farmers, but you also see the need for the island to diversify into other forms of agriculture. Smugglers' Cove in your constituency is a small rocky inlet – it might have tourist potential, though only on a small scale, and nothing like the big Anchorage Bay proposal.

- Q** Do you support 'big tourism' proposals (like Anchorage Bay) as a way of making the whole island more prosperous – or is the best way forward to stay small-scale?