

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Friday, February 14, 1997

The College met at 1.30 p.m.

PRAYERS

[Hon. Hector McClean *in the Chair*]

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Members, I wish to declare open this meeting of the Electoral College which, as you know, is a unicameral body comprising the Members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives.

You were summoned here by a notice dated January 23, 1997, and I believe there is just one item on the agenda, which is the election of a President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Only Members of the House of Representatives were competent to nominate candidates and, indeed, there have been two nominations. These were signed by the nominees and the required number of Members of the House of Representatives.

I shall give you the details of the nominations. The first nomination received by me was on Monday, February 3, 1997 at 12.15 p.m.

Details of the nomination are as follows:

ROBINSON, Arthur Napoleon Raymond,

21 Ellerslie Park, Maraval,

Minister of Government.

Those who signed the nomination papers were:

Name	Constituency
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Ramesh Maharaj	Couva South
Dhanraj Singh	Pointe-a-Pierre
Manohar Ramsaran	Chaguanas
Adesh Nanan	Tabaquite
Chandresh Sharma	Fyzabad
Fuad Khan	Barataria/San Juan
Ganga Singh	Caroni East
Pamela Nicholson	Tobago West
Trevor Sudama	Oropouche
Harry Partap	Nariva
Kamla Persad-Bissessar	Siparia
John Humphrey	St. Augustine

I kindly ask Members to hold the talk for a little later. It does put me off while I am on serious business.

The declaration of Mr. A.N.R. Robinson according to the papers filed was as follows:

"I, Arthur N. R. Robinson nominated with the foregoing nomination paper hereby consent to such nomination as candidate for election as President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and name as my address for serving of process and papers under the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Electoral College Regulations, 1976:

Address: 21 Ellershe Park, Maraval.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of February, 1997.

Signed: Arthur N. R. Robinson."

The second nomination, ladies and gentlemen, of the Electoral College was received by my office at 11.07 p.m. on Monday, February 3, 1997.

Details of the nomination are as follows:

LUCKY, Anthony Amos,
13 Second Street,
St. Joseph Village,
San Fernando
Judge

Those who signed the nomination papers were as follows:

Name	Constituency
Patrick A. M. Manning	San Fernando East
Kenneth Valley	Diego Martin Central
Eulalie James	Laventille West
Edward Hart	Tunapuna
Jarrette Narine	Arouca North
Martin Joseph	St. Ann's East
Eric Williams	Port of Spain South
Camille Robinson-Regis	Arouca South
Rupert Griffith	Arima
Barendra Sinanan	San Fernando West
Roger Boynes	Toco/Manzanilla
Hedwidge Bereaux	La Brea.

The declaration of Mr. Anthony Amos Lucky according to the papers filed was as follows:

"I, Anthony Amos Lucky nominated in the foregoing nomination paper hereby consent to such nomination as candidate for election as President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and name as my address for serving of process and papers under the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Electoral College Regulations, 1976:

Address: 1 3 Second Street,
St. Joseph Village,
San Fernando

Witness my hand this 3rd day of February, 1997.

Signed: Anthony Amos Lucky."

Hon. Members, both nominations are in conformity with section 30 of the Constitution and according to Regulation 5 of the Electoral College Regulations, the two candidates are deemed to stand nominated. Nothing has been submitted to me by anyone, thereby giving proof to my satisfaction that either nominated candidate is dead, not qualified under section 23 of the Constitution, or that either candidate has withdrawn. A poll by secret ballot is therefore required with each accredited Member of the College having a vote and with me also having a casting vote.

By regulation 8(6) of the Electoral College Regulations, 1976, no debate on the merits of a candidate shall be held except that a proposer of each candidate may address the Electoral College on the merits of his or her candidate to a maximum of 15 minutes in terms of a text submitted to me and already approved by me.

I now call on a proposer from among those who nominated both candidates to address the Electoral College if he or she so desires. It has been agreed that Mr. Kenneth Valley will address on behalf of Anthony Amos Lucky.

1.40 p.m.

Mr. Kenneth Valley (Diego Martin Central): Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure on behalf of the members of this side of the House to propose a nominee for the position of President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Chairman, the Constitution provides for a President who is the Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, and who is responsible for the appointment of members to the independent bench of the Senate, and various independent commissions. These powers of appointment require the President to exercise this authority conscientiously, impartially, and free from any political influence or extraneous constraints.

Mr. Chairman it is the view of the members on this side, that the person holding the office of President must be an exemplar, manifesting unquestionable integrity, strength of character, intelligence, patriotism, objectivity, and non-partisanship. Our nominee, Mr. Justice Anthony Amos Lucky meets all these requirements. In support of our nomination, I would like to present to this House Mr. Justice Lucky's personal, educational, and career background.

Mr. Justice Lucky was born in San Fernando on May 11, 1940. In tracing Justice Lucky's genealogy, we find an interesting blend of ethnic and geographical roots. His father, Amos, was of East Indian parentage-both parents having come from India as the children of indentured labourers. The lineage of his mother, Kathlyn June Bunting, reveals ancestors who were Dutch, Amerindian, Mainland Chinese, and West Indian. In a sense, Mr. Chairman, we can say that Justice Lucky is thus, the quintessential Caribbean man.

The story is that the boat in which his maternal great-grandmother, grandmother, and other relatives were travelling, was shipwrecked off the coast of Tobago while en route from St. Lucia to British Guiana. That incident resulted in the family eventually settling in Trinidad.

Justice Lucky is married to Cintra Esther Gopaulsingh, an educator of many years' standing, who will bring grace and charm to the President's House and who is an excellent role

model for the women of our nation. Mr. and Mrs. Lucky are the proud parents of four successful young women. At present the family resides in San Fernando.

A member of Gray's Inn, London, Mr. Justice lucky was admitted to the Bar in 1961, and began his law practice in the chambers of W.H. Agrimude, F.K.R. Misir and W. Hercules. In July 1963, Justice Lucky joined the public service as a Legal Cadet in the Attorney General's Department and served there until 1964 when he was appointed a Magistrate in the courts of Trinidad and Tobago.

Justice Lucky served as a magistrate for ten (10) years, and during that time he was also a part-time lecturer in law with the Extra-Mural Department and the Hugh Wooding Law School of the University of the West Indies. In 1972 Justice lucky obtained a diploma in International Relations from the University of the West Indies and in March of 1985, he completed his Masters of Science degree in International Relations.

Justice Lucky has also provided service to the country through the private sector. During the ten-year period from 1976 to 1987, he worked with the Royal Bank Group of Companies as in-house Counsel, corporate Secretary and Legal Advisor. In addition, Justice Lucky has been Secretary to Caribbean Banking Corporation in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In July 1987, Justice Lucky was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago. In addition to his role as a judge, Justice Lucky pursues an active social and community life. He has been a member of the Archbishop's Council of the Laity, serves as a Lay Minister at the St. Benedict Parish, La Romain and a member of the Board of Management: of the Presentation Colleges in San Fernando and Chaguanas. Justice Lucky is also the Chairman of the Kidney Foundation of Trinidad and Tobago. An avid sportsman, he is a member of several prominent cricket organizations in Trinidad and Tobago and the West Indies, including the Queen's Park Cricket Club and West Indies Cricket Board.

Mr. Justice Anthony Lucky has served our country well in professional, civic, and religious capacities. He is a true citizen of Trinidad and Tobago who will bring the honour, dignity and decorum required to the office of the President. Mr. Chairman. we are proposing this

nomination, as we see it as our obligation and responsibility to posterity to assist in building our democratic institutions and strengthening our democratic traditions.

Justice Lucky, by agreeing to be nominated, has demonstrated his unrelenting support for our cherished democratic institutions and traditions that have aided our democracy for so many years. We salute him and recommend him as the fit and proper candidate for the office of the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

I have the honour, Mr. Chairman, to so move. Thank you.

Hon. John Humphrey (St. Augustine):Mr. Chairman, the honourable A.N.R. Robinson S.C., was duly nominated on February 3, 1997 to occupy the high and distinguished office of the President.

Mr. Robinson, a senior Cabinet Minister and a former Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, is one of the most experienced parliamentarians in the Commonwealth and in the Caribbean region. Mr. Robinson was the first Bowles Scholar to Bishop's High School, Tobago, in 1939, and later the first House Scholarship Winner from Bishop's High School in 1942. As a candidate for the prestigious Island Scholarship from Bishop's High School in 1944 and 1945, Mr. Robinson obtained the Higher School Certificate in both years with distinction in Latin. Continuing his studies, Mr. Robinson gained the Bachelor of Laws Degree from London University as a external student in 1949.

1.50 p.m.

In 1951, Mr. Robinson left for the United Kingdom where he gained admission to the Inner Temple London, and passed the Bar Final Examinations in 1953. That same year he was accepted at St. John's College, Oxford, where he obtained a good Second Class Honours Degree, in two years, in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. He was admitted to practise as a Barrister-at-Law in Trinidad and Tobago in 1955 and practised in the Chambers of Sir Courtney Hannays from 1957 to 1961. He was elected to the Federal Parliament of the West Indies in 1958.

Mr. Robinson has been a representative of Trinidad and Tobago on the Council of the University of the West Indies and a Director of Trinidad and Tobago's Industrial Development Corporation. He served as the first Minister of Finance of his country after independence from 1962-1967 and as Minister of External Affairs from 1967-1970. During this period he also often acted as Prime Minister during the absence abroad of Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams. He has been Consultant to the United Nations Secretary-General on crime and the abuse of power. He was the first Chairman of the restored Tobago House of Assembly and founder-member of the National Alliance for Reconstruction of Trinidad and Tobago which he led to victory in the elections of 1986, when he became Prime Minister until December, 1991. He is now representative of the constituency of Tobago East in the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, and holds the portfolio of Minister Extraordinaire and of Tobago Affairs.

Mr. Robinson was one of the 24 founding members and the first Treasurer of the People's National Movement, the party that led Trinidad and Tobago to independence in 1962. In 1966, he became Deputy Political Leader to Dr. Eric Eustace Williams, the country's first Premier who later became Prime Minister. Mr. Robinson resigned from that party in 1970, led a no-vote campaign for electoral reform in the General Elections of 1971 in protest against the use of voting machines and for return of the ballot box. He was elected leader of the Democratic Action Congress which merged with other Opposition parties to form the National Alliance for Reconstruction. Mr. Robinson was elected in 1985 to lead the merged party which was victorious in the General Elections of 1986 when, from being Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, he became Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

As Minister of Finance from 1961-1967, Mr. Robinson was responsible for the restructuring of the country's financial institutions and the reform of the financial and monetary policy on the achievement of independence by Trinidad and Tobago. Later, from 1986-1991, in the same capacity, and as Prime Minister, Mr. Robinson was responsible for the economic and financial measures that brought economic improvement to his country after a seven-year period of progressive decline. From 1976-1986, he successfully led the struggle that brought

decentralization and devolution of authority to the island of Tobago as part of the unitary state of Trinidad and Tobago. He continues to work and speak for all of Tobago in the struggle for greater autonomy of the island.

As Prime Minister, Mr. Robinson was responsible for several regional initiatives, including the Caribbean Regional Economic Conference, the proposed Caribbean Supreme Court and the West Indian Commission chaired by Sir Shridath Ramphal, former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, which was mandated to chart the future course of the Caribbean region. He has represented his country at many international conferences and at the United Nations where he has been acknowledged to be the leading proponent of an International Criminal Court.

In this regard Mr. Robinson has been an advocate for the establishment of an International Criminal Court as an effective complement to national investigations and prosecutions in cases where states are unwilling or unable to do so. In 1990, when taken hostage in the Parliament building with other Ministers and parliamentarians by insurgents and called upon by his captors to direct the security forces to withdraw and surrender, he defiantly resisted with the command to "attack with full force".

Within the current portfolio of the Ministry of the Minister Extraordinaire, Mr. Robinson has been at the forefront for fundamental reform in the approach to poverty reduction and eradication, and has been interacting with the United Nations System and other international agencies in order to support a holistic and integrated response to poverty and equity issues. As a consequence of Mr. Robinson's direct intervention, Trinidad and Tobago became the first nation to access resources from the Poverty Strategies Initiative Fund while it was still being established by the United Nations Development Programme. Mr. Robinson's work and association with the United Nations and its agencies has generated new and positive dimensions to relationships between the United Nations and developing countries as exemplified by relationships with Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Robinson is a Master of Arts of St. John's College, Oxford, in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Bachelor of Laws of London University, Barrister-at-Law of the Inner Temple, London, and Senior Counsel. He is an Honorary Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford, and has been a Visiting Scholar to the Harvard Law School. He holds an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Civil Laws from the Obafemi Awolowo University of Nigeria. In 1987, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Honour and of Merit by the Lutheran University of California and Received a Knighthood award by an Ecumenical Foundation of the Knights of St. John for “exceptional achievements and unselfish support of humanity”. Mr. Robinson is the holder of The Distinguished International Criminal Law Award of 1977 and the distinguished Human Development Award of 1983. He is a Freeman of the cities of Los Angeles, Caracas and Thousand Oaks and holds Venezuela’s highest award, the Simon Bolivar Award. He was Director of the Foundation for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court for over 15 years. In November, 1993, he was co-opted as Vice-Chair of the International Council of the United National affiliated body, “Parliamentarians for Global Action” with a membership of over 1,100 members from 85 countries around the world and was re-nominated to serve on the Executive Committee for 1997 as President with responsibility for the organization’s programmes in international law and human rights.

Mr. Robinson is the author of *The New frontier and the New Africa and The Mechanics of Independence*; the latter published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, United States of America. He has co-authored the article on Trinidad and Tobago in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* and has published numerous articles and addresses.

Mr. Robinson is married to Patricia nee Rawlins, M.A. (Columbia) in Economics and has two children: David an aeronautical Engineer (Design) and Ann-Margaret, an honours graduate in Mathematics and Computer Science.

Mr. Robinson’s hobbies are reading, walking, swimming and music.

2.00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Members, before I declare the poll open and hand over the conduct of same to the Clerk of the House, I wish to indicate to you what are some of the arrangements made to facilitate the poll.

The Clerk of the House would be calling every Member present, in alphabetical order, to cast his or her ballot.

The Clerk of the House would initial the ballot which you are given, in your presence, thereby validating it.

The Clerk would demonstrate to you how to fold your ballot paper in such a manner that only her initials would be visible.

You would then proceed to the voting booth located to the back of my Chair.

In that booth you will find an "X" stamp, and a stamp pad, as well as a pen which you will use to place your X mark next to the name of the candidate of your choice on your ballot paper. Should you spoil your ballot paper in any manner, please return it to the Clerk who will be only too happy to issue you with another.

Once you have finished voting, please return to the table along the left side of my Chair and show just the initials on the ballot paper before depositing it into the ballot box which is provided.

I did send to hon. Members, copies of the Electoral College Regulations, 1976 which go into further details and I hope that they have been helpful.

In the circumstances, hon. Members, it is left for me simply to formally declare the poll opened and hand over proceedings to the Clerk of the House, and in doing so, to hand over to her a book of 100 ballots with the names of both candidates on them.

Ballot box opened and shown to Members.

Miss J. Sampson (*Clerk of the House*): I am satisfied that there is no material in the box. However, if any Member wishes to examine the box before it is closed, feel free to come forward and do so. I will now have the box closed and it shall remain so until the end of the balloting.

Voting process begins.

3.05 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Honourable Members, before I formally announce the closing of the poll, I wish to request any Member present who is properly accredited and who is desirous of voting, who has not had an opportunity to vote, to so indicate or forever hold his or her peace. There is no such indication. I now formally announce the close of the poll in accordance with regulation 16 of the Electoral College.

I accordingly ask the Clerk of the House to proceed with the count, and I ask the two persons representing reporters, each to kindly sit with the Clerk to count the votes. I understand that Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis is willing to do this on behalf of one candidate, and Mr. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj is also counting on behalf of the other candidate.

Ballots counted.

Statement of Poll handed to Chairman.

Result:

No. of ballots cast for Anthony Amos Lucky - 18

No. of ballots cast for Arthur Napoleon

Raymond Robinson - 46

No. of rejected ballots - 1

3.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: In accordance with section 31(1) of the Constitution of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago I now declare the candidate who obtained the greater number of votes,

Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson, elected as the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. This shall be for a five-year term as set out in section 33 (1) of the Constitution.

In accordance with section 37 of the Constitution:

"A President shall before entering upon the duties of his office take and subscribe the oath of office..."

This shall be done immediately the term of office of the current President ends on March 18, 1997.

An instrument duly signed and sealed by me certifying the election at today's meeting of Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson as President, in consequence of the ballot shall be issued.

Motion made and question proposed, That this Electoral College be now adjourned sine die.

Question put and agreed to.

Electoral College adjourned accordingly.

Adjourned at 3.34 p.m.