

## **BELIZE FACTS AND FIGURES**

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### **SECTION: PART II: THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE AND THEIR HISTORY/THE SPLIT**

#### **The Split**

The unity displayed by the early nationalists was short-lived. This was because of a change in the PUP which occurred on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1956 when a split in the leadership of the party occurred. According to one account, Leigh Richardson, William Coffin, Herman Jex and Philip Goldson resigned their positions in the PUP during a public meeting. These leaders accused George Price and Nicholas Pollard of creating disunity in the party.

Another account states that Leigh Richardson, William Coffin, Herman Jex and Philip Goldson were expelled from the PUP because they had held secret negotiations with the British for the colony to enter into the West Indian Federation. This Federation was envisioned as a British oriented political union among the colonies in the West Indies.

Regardless of what caused the split, the PUP matured and became the most successful early political party and the party that would lead Belize into independence. George Price became the leader of the PUP from the split in 1956 until 1996 when he retired.