

**Address by Janet Jagan at graveside of Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow on  
November 3, 2005**

We are here today to commemorate the life and contributions to the labour movement made by Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow, the acknowledged Father of Trade Unionism in Guyana.

Mr. Critchlow founded the first trade union in our country, the British Guiana Labour Union, in 1919 and it was registered in July 1922. During its first year, the union had between 7000 – 9000 members.

Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow made great personal sacrifices over the years in his efforts to build a strong union and raise the level of living condition for the nation's workers.

From a 10½ hour day he eventually won the 8 hour day. Through his efforts, collective bargaining was introduced as a procedure for improving the conditions of workers.

What Critchlow did for Guyana can never be minimised. He made a sterling contribution to the lives of the nation's working class. His name is part of Guyana's rich history. He laboured under very difficult conditions and at times, did not have the support needed to achieve the aims so necessary for the advancement of labour. Despite disparaging rumours about him, when he died in 1958, he left a small estate of only \$704.

Critchlow holds an important role in the history of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and as we pay homage to him we must also remember that he was one of the first champions of the country's working people.

# GUYANA LABOUR UNION

**REG. NO.1**

(CRITCHLOW HOUSE), 198 CAMP STREET, SOUTH C/BURG)

(FOUNDED IN 1919 & REGISTERED IN 1922 BY THE LATE H.N. CRITCHLOW)

CABLE ADDRESS: LABOUR BANKER: National Bank of Industry & Commerce

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Faye Barkoye

November 7, 2005

Her Excellency  
Mrs. Janet Jagan  
Former President  
c/o Freedom House  
41 Robb Street  
Lacytown  
Georgetown

Dear Mrs. Jagan,

The Planning Committee for the Critchlow Centenary is in the process, of compiling a booklet to be used at a one-day seminar, scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup> 2005. It would be greatly appreciated, if you can furnish us with a copy of your tribute that was given for the late Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow, at the Wreath Laying Ceremony at LeRepentir Cemetery, on Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2005.

We seek your permission also, to have your tribute printed in our booklet since we believe that such literature could be educational not only for all participants of the Centenary Committee's Seminar, but for the general public.

Appreciative of your kind co-operation.

Yours co-operatively,



Carvil Duncan  
General Secretary