Belt-tightening is an international reality

WRITE TO: 

Newsday, Chacon Street, Port-of-Spain

CANT BEAT "EM? JOIN THEM; People sleep on couches during the first Siesta Championship in Madrid, Spain. The participants of the siesta contest win points for the first person to fall asleep, the loudest snorer, best original sleeping position and best dressed sleeper. Doctors are present to check if the contestants are actually asleep. See Page 26A. AP PHOTO

Spanish and Chinese writing

THE EDITOR: Of late both portable and mobile phones have been appearing on the shelves with operating instructions printed in Spanish only. Although we were supposed to have been striving for literacy in Spanish — shades of Mestizaje — perhaps we should be aiming for literacy in English first.

Spanish as a language of this country is English and as such this should appear in all notices.

This also applies to the Cash Register tapes of the new rush of Chinese supermarkets. These tapes display Chinese characters next to the unit cost of the item. The Bureau of Standards may wish to address this.

EVERARD A SHAND
San Fernando

Keep up pay fight

THE EDITOR: I am a pensioner, and have to employ an assistant since I am not too well to move around. The increase in the minimum wage is now making it very difficult for me to pay my assistant.

I had been pleading with the authorities not to increase the minimum wage, but no consideration had been given to individuals who could not obtain to pay this wage.

Now it is the State’s turn, to pay increased wages demanded by the union. I hope they would not say they don’t have the money, since they have to do is pass a law similar to the minimum wages law and force the money to come, they know, do so never like so.

So come on unions, keep up the fight, if one sector gets an increase, it supports the increase in inflation, to fight this inflation everyone is supposed to get an increase.

P D S A S
Caroni

One percent unreasonable

THE EDITOR: As a retired public servant, I am sad when I hear “reasonable” persons say that the Government should fire all public servants.

The public servants run the Ministries Departments, not the Ministers. Without public servants how will you get your passport, driving permit or ID Card? Can you insert a card in a slot and obtain these services?

The problem in the public service is supervision. There are some cases of corruption and some officials take advantage of the situation. There are many hard working public servants. Are they to be punished because of the delinquent ones?

I do not know how any “reasonable” person can expect public servants to be satisfied with the one per cent offered by the Government through the Chaguanis Personnel Officer.

M E RODRIGUEZ
Trinidad