

Easy Come, Easy Clico

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THE INTERNET is turning out this morning to be the equivalent of the telephone during the 1990 coup attempt. On the morning of July 28th, 1990, someone called to tell me he knew for a fact there were seven British warships in the Gulf of Paria. I lived on Fort George hill at the time and could see the entire Gulf to deny it.

He hung up, puzzled, only to ring back a minute after. "I spoke to the people who gave me the story," he said, "and they say to tell you that the reason you can't see the battleships *is because is really seven submarines*

!" The Trinidad rumour mill can make running fine tuning adjustments.

But the rumours about Clico Investment Bank – some of them circulating for a decade now – this morning turned out to be true. The government and/or Central Bank have moved swiftly to guarantee depositors' funds – but I want to believe that someone is going to move just as quickly to demand "equal treatment" for the Hindu Credit Union, don't mind it is in receivership.