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"FNM Threatens Human Rights", Says QC

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

In a bitter disagreement with government's immigration ultimatum that is set to take place in a matter of weeks, noted Queen's Counsel and human rights attorney Fred Smith has called the Minnis administration fascist, and the greatest threat to basic human Rights in the country.

Mr. Smith has labeled the FNM government both current and past as the worst thing that has happened for human rights in the Bahamas.

"The FNM has been the most abusive party towards human rights and fundamental freedoms for decades.

"We have a situation where there is acceptance in The Bahamas that Immigration can just run around break into your

house and take people out of their homes and hold you illegally.

"The Bahamas is becoming a fascist state. The FNM should change their name to the Fascist National Movement," Mr. Smith said.

He warned that the immigration proclamation may just be the first step that ultimately leads to the demise of the Bahamian democracy.

■ See FNM THREATENS / page 3...



► Queen's Counsel and human rights attorney Fred Smith (Journal file photo)

PM "Flip-flopping Over Increase for MPs," Says Davis

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party Leader Phillip "Brave" Davis has taken the government to task after the announcement to raise the salary of MPs in the upcoming fiscal year.

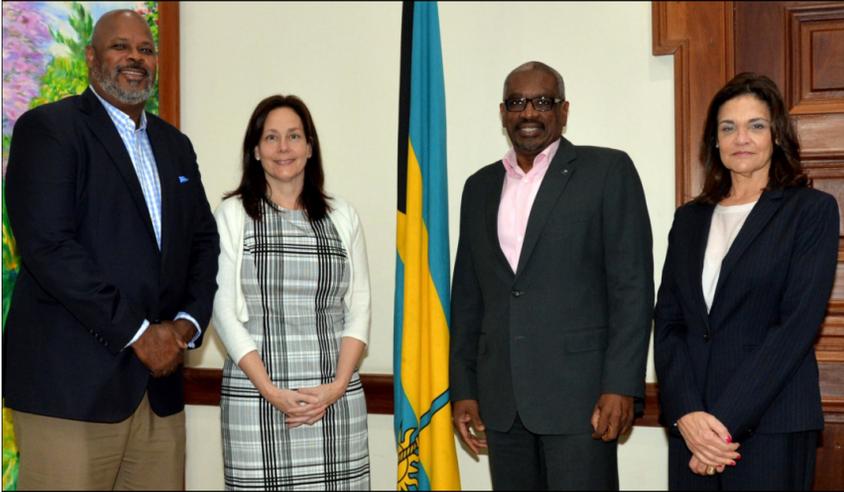
In statement Mr. Davis said the government should place itself in the shoes of the thousands of jobless Bahamians, adding that this is terrible timing for the announcement of the pay increase with the country going through a rough fiscal period.

"The Progressive Liberal Party does not believe that the personal needs of well-off politicians should come amid supposed policies of austerity, including but not limited to the firing of hundreds of public service workers, funding cuts to essential scholarship programs for young Bahamians and the reduction in social assistance to the poor, because the proverbial cupboard was declared bare by the Minister of Finance. It comes off to the general public as hypocritical, insensitive, mean-spirited and selfish.

"The PLP cannot and does not support these increases for Members of Parliament as proposed by the Prime Minister.

■ See FLIP-FLOPPING OVER INCREASE on PAGE 2...

BROOKFIELD AND ATLANTIS EXECUTIVES PAY COURTESY CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER



► In a courtesy call at the Office of the Prime Minister on Friday, Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis (centre right) welcomed Andrea Balkan, Managing Partner, Real Estate Finance Funds at Brookfield Asset Management (centre left); Audrey Oswell, President & Managing Director of Atlantis, Paradise Island, and Ed Fields, VP/Public Relations, Atlantis. (Photo/Yontalay Bowe, OPM Media Services)

CASH BLASTS PM OVER MPS RAISE

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

Former Free National Movement Chairman Darron Cash on Friday lambasted Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis over the weekend for "laying off people who are desperate for a job" only to increase the salaries

of Members of Parliament.

In a statement posted on Facebook, Mr. Cash said the message this sends to the people is "me first, you last." He said however justified a salary increase might be, "it is still feathering your own nest".

■ See BLASTS PM OVER MPS RAISE / page 2...

Skeletal Remains Found In Bimini

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

In a scene reminiscent of that of a horror movie, police on the Island of Bimini are

investigating the discovery of human remains that was found on the island.

Reports are that shortly after 12:00pm on Friday, Officers were called to a beach near the East Wells area on

North Bimini, where a human skeletal skull was discovered.

The remains were collected and police are continuing investigation into this matter.

"SHOOTING INCIDENT - GRAND BAHAMA"

Police in Grand Bahama are investigating a shooting incident that has left three male residents of Grand Bahama injured.

Reports are that on Saturday shortly after 3:00am, Officers while on mobile patrol in the Coral Road area were alerted that three males in a black Nissan Note were suffering from gunshot wounds to the body. EMS were dispatched and transported the males to the Rand Memorial Hospital.

Two of the males were detained and are listed in stable condition.

The other male was released from hospital; Police are actively investigating this matter.



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HOTEL UNION SAYS Former AG's Abused Office

BY AMAJAH L KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Hotel Maintenance and Allied Workers Union has reiterated the position of Golden Gates MP Michael Foulkes who last week said former Attorney General Allyson Maynard- Gibson abused her position while in office.

During his contribution in the House last week Mr. Foulkes stated, that Mrs. Maynard Gibson abused her authority as Attorney General when she issued a nolle prosequi to stop a private prosecution against the top management of

Sandals Royal Bahamian Resort.

Mr. Foulkes further stated that "there is little doubt that the action of the then Honorable Attorney General was an abuse. It was an over-reach and an arbitrary exercise of her constitutional authority — unfettered and answerable to no one."

The Maintenance Union in a statement said it is in full agreement with the contributions made by Mr. Foulkes, and states that Mrs. Maynard Gibson's action was not only an abuse of her powers as Attorney General, but it was a cardinal sin, and an unforgivable

sin, that workers in the Bahamas would never ever forget.

"This despicable action by Mrs. Maynard Gibson has taken workers back to the Pre-General Strike era, against ILO Convention 87 and 98, and an affront to the 600 workers who were terminated from Sandals; while she was looking after the interest of the foreign workers at the expense of Bahamian workers. The question at the back of our minds is Why?" asked the Union.

According to Foulkes, Maynard-Gibson's action, "seemingly approved by the then Right

Honorable Prime Minister Perry Christie, speaks to their uncanny ability and penchant for looking out for their narrow interests at the expense of 600 hard-working Bahamians".

Mr. Foulkes said the PLP has sold the Bahamian people a "false narrative" that it is for "the small man". "If that were so, why did not the then honorable attorney general allow the hotel workers' case to be heard to its conclusion and allow a ruling by the learned magistrate and let the chips fall where they may?"

"It is unthinkable, unimaginable

and unbelievable that any government would treat its workers and people in such a callous fashion. We whole heartily endorsed these sentiments.

"Because of Allyson Maynard Gibson abuse of power, Bahamian workers have no recourse where Employers fail to negotiate. We now again call on this present Government, through the Minister Labour, to fix this wrong, and ensure that the 600 terminated workers from Sandals Royal Bahamian Resorts and Spa are properly compensated," said Mr. Foulkes.

PM "Flip-flopping Over Increase for MPs," Says Davis

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"This FNM government

continues to produce the wrong remedies for the wrong time, and now it pro-

poses to look after its own while many Bahamian families are hurting. This is, after-

all, a government whose Minister of Tourism fired tourism personnel in Grand

Bahama, an island with the highest unemployment rate. If Hubert Minnis believes Members of Parliament cannot live on the salaries they are currently making, he should place himself in the shoes of the thousands of Bahamians who live from hand to mouth, including those fired by his government.

"What concerns the PLP is the overwhelming proof we now have that the Prime Minister cannot be trusted. His proposal to raise MP's salaries comes just three years after he stated that as long as he was the leader of the FNM, he would never support a salary increase for Parliamentarians while Bahamians are suffering. Well, Mr. Prime Minister, Bahamians are still suffering," Mr. Davis said.

Mr. Davis also hit out at

the Prime Minister for notably switching his stance on the issue calling him hypocritical.

"Last week's proposal by the Prime Minister to raise salaries fits a troubling pattern of hypocrisy and flip-flopping.

"The government should focus its efforts on improving the economic livelihood of the Bahamian people before enhancing their own, announce a strategic plan for sustainable economic growth, and reduce the pain of Bahamian families caused by their short-sighted fiscal consolidation policies.

"The Prime Minister calls himself a man with a heart. Well where was that heart when children across this country struggled because their parents were made redundant?," Mr. Davis asked.



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Maxwell Duncan Leslie, Single,
of 620 Lee Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060, United States of America

and

Casey Nicole Heiar, Single,
of 620 Lee Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 6th day of October, 2017.


Registrar of Marriages



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Michael Edward Carpenter, Single,
of 104 Kirpatrick Way Leduc, AB T9E 0Z2, Canada

and

Michelle Lee Stratton, Single,
of 104 Kirpatrick Way Leduc, AB T9E 0Z2, Canada

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 6th day of October, 2017.


Registrar of Marriages



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Timothy Wade Lindsey, Single,
of 8721 Escabosa Dr., Austin TX 78748, United States of America

and

Leigh Ann Thompson, Single,
of 8721 Escabosa Dr., Austin TX 78748, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 10th day of October, 2017.


Registrar of Marriages



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Lee Quai, Divorced,
of 4 Red Fold, Aughton,, Ormskirk L39 4TX, United States of America

and

Lynn Marie Alderdice, Divorced,
of 4 Red Fold, Aughton, Ormskirk L39 4TX, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 10th day of October, 2017.


Registrar of Marriages

CASH BLASTS PM OVER MPS RAISE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

On Thursday, three years after opposing a salary increase for parliamentarians because of the weak economy, Prime Minister Minnis said his administration will raise the salaries of MPs in the next fiscal year.

Dr. Minnis' position is a turnabout from 2014, when, in response to the Christie administration's desire for the same thing, he said: "As long as I am leader of this country the FNM would not support any pay increase with all the pain and suffering that is going on in this country."

Since 2014, economic growth remains slow and the Minnis administration has frequently lamented the state of the country's finances.

"If I did not know better, I would have sworn I was being punked," said Mr. Cash.

"The news is simply unbelievable. Old people say that when you make your bed up hard you have to sleep in it hard. When a new government is striving to distinguish itself from its predecessors in office, a good starting point is to not do all the dumb things that they did. Especially if you were opposed to those things."

Mr. Cash continued: "There is something unseemly about a government laying off people who are desperate for a job and then coming behind and raising its own salaries. The FNM did not run on the message of 'downsize the staff and upsize our own salaries.' Tough decisions cause goodwill and political capital to be eroded. That is to be expected. A new government should spend its political capital on the tough decisions that matter most to the broader population."

Mr. Cash also criticized the Prime Minister for "making a U-turn on the resounding 'no' vote in the last referendum".

Dr. Minnis announced in the House on Thursday his administration's intention to amend the Immigration Act to allow all Bahamian women the right to automatically transfer citizenship to their children regardless of where they are born.

This issue – the first of four questions in the last year's referendum – was overwhelmingly rejected by the majority of the population.

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THE GOVERNOR GENERAL VISITED SIR DURWARD KNOWLES ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY



► Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling, Governor General (seated, centre) visited with Centenarian Sir Durward Knowles who celebrated his 100th Birthday at his home on Thursday, November 2, 2017. Also pictured is Sir Durward's wife, Lady Holly Knowles. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)

“FNM Threatens Human Rights”, Says QC

Continued from / PAGE 1...

“After they finish arming Immigration and the Defence Force, these ministers will feel powerful enough to turn on the Bahamian people.

“We are empowering an arm of government who will one day decide to have a military coup against The Bahamas and they will forever destroy our democracy,” Mr. Smith said.

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis last week defended his government’s decision to tighten the grip on illegal immigration.

Dr. Minnis charged that he found some of the recent discussions on the issue very curious, saying it is disturbing that some who claim to be concerned about human rights and the rule of law seem to want to suspend the rule of law when it pertains to certain immigration matters.

Cooper Hits Out At Robinson Over “Janitor” Comments

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party Deputy Leader Chester Cooper has blasted Free National Movement MP Travis Robinson over comments he made last week after it was announced that Members of Parliament will be receiving a raise in the next fiscal year.

In an interview last week Robinson asserted that pay raise was well deserved as he shared a similar pay scale with of persons that work as janitors.

While speaking to Young Liberals at

the Progressive Liberal Party Headquarters on Sunday, the Exuma and Ragged Island MP blasted Robinson for his comments.

“I also note that the FNM representative for Bain and Grants Town, young Travis Robinson – a bright young man whose success I usually applaud, told The Tribune that parliamentarians are paid like janitors, and at least a doubling in salary for MPs would stem corruption. Imagine that!

“The people of Bain and Grants Town should be insulted.

“I suggest the prime minister counsel

his young MP, have him apologize to the people he represents, among whom there are many hardworking janitors, worthy of respect, who only wish they made what MPs do now.

“And maybe the prime minister can have a talk with Mr. Robinson about how even the richest of people can still be corrupt. Corruption is an issue of character, not of compensation.

“In any event, I think that as the FNM meanders along a course of what is shaping up to be a series of bad calls, it is now long past the time for the PLP to stop crying,” Mr. Cooper said.

The Bahamas Agriculture & Marine Science Institute WEEKLY PRICE REPORT WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 25th, 2017

Wholesale Crop	Weight	Size	BAMSI		USDA-AMS		Retail Weight	BAMSI		USDA-AMS	
			Price		HIGH	LOW		Price	HIGH	LOW	
Banana	40lbs		18.00		20.00	20.00	1lb.	0.49	0.72	0.49	
Papaya	10lbs		14.00		18.00	16.00	each	1.59	1.57	1.57	
Habanero Green	8lbs		16.00		15.00	12.00	1lb.	2.50	1.88	1.50	
Habanero Orange	8lbs		40.00		15.00	12.00	1lb.	5.50	1.88	1.50	
Okra							1lb.	3.00	N/A	N/A	

	Wholesale Prices		BAMSI Price	Retail Prices	
	Weight			Weight	
Abaco Big Bird				1 lb	2.39
Whole Chicken	Per lb.		2.14	10lbs	8.49
Leg Quarters	40lbs		28.36	10lbs	19.24
Wings	40lbs		66.04		

Source: USDA-AMS Miami
United States Department of Agriculture Market Service



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► Executive Chairman of the Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation, Reece Chipman addresses the Pompey Museum exhibit audience, November 2, 2017. **BIS Photos/Derek Smith**

Pompey Museum Has Preview Showing of 'Struggle for Freedom in The Bahamas: From Slavery to Independence'

Historians, politicians, artists and others gathered at Pompey Museum of Slavery and Emancipation, downtown Bay Street, on Thursday, November 2, 2017 for a Special Preview of the exhibit, 'Struggle For Freedom in The Bahamas: From Slavery to Independence.'

The exhibit comprises wall-to-wall sailboat-shaped displays with

lots of information and graphics, along with multimedia kiosks full of content and depictions of artifacts dated back to days of slavery in The Bahamas.

The Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation (AMMC) of The Bahamas held the preview for which the Open House will take place on Sunday, November 12,

2017. Sponsor of the exhibition is Templeton World Charity Foundation, Inc.

After experiencing two fires: one in 2001 and the other in 2011, the museum's present state of renovation is the result of both local and international participation. Charred walls can still be seen inside the museum so as to keep as much history as possible

because the museum is the actual place where slaves were auctioned in The Bahamas.

The museum is not limited to the past. It showcases exhibits as early as 1648, but also contemporary issues such as human trafficking and smuggling. One must keep in mind that history is constantly being created.

Executive Chairman of the

Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation, Reece Chipman talked about the importance of preserving our history by saying, "Without knowing who you are, it is hard to know where you are going."

He made it clear that a visit to Pompey Museum is important to Bahamians because, "Who we are is right here in this museum."



Lung Cancer On The Increase

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

In another 10 to 15 years, many more people will fall victim to lung cancer as the number of cigarette smokers have increased over the years, according to Dr. Darius Unwala.

The board member of the Cancer Society of The Bahamas, Dr. Unwala said that although the risk factor for lung cancer is often times smoking, it is not the only

factor.

"The biggest thing with lung cancer has to do with cigarette smoking that's by far and away the number one risk factor.

"When we were growing up, lung cancer was less prevalent because cigarette smoking was not cool in The Bahamas. It was more common in countries like Europe, and more common in England than it is in The Bahamas.

"A lot of cancers of the

lung in The Bahamas are cancer spread. Rather than being cancer of the lungs itself, you may have prostate cancer and it spreads to the lungs, or you might have breast cancer and it spreads to the lungs or you have uterine cancer and it spreads to the lungs," Dr. Unwala said.

"So, a lot of the cancer we have of the lung in The Bahamas, if you are not smoking, has to do with other cancers that just spread to the lungs," he said.

However, Dr. Unwala also stated that by the time an individual discovers that they have cancer of the lung, it is too far gone.

"The problem with lung cancer is that it usually presents at an advanced stage.

"So, by the time people have symptoms, they're coughing up blood, or they're short of breath, or they have bone pain or weight loss, it's just too late," Dr. Unwala said.

He said to avoid lung can-

cer, smokers have to make a life changing decision.

"The problem is people often find it very difficult to stop smoking and it is usually a life changing event that causes it.

"Prevention is the key with lung cancer and I think that people can stop it when they have a life changing event.

"It's a matter of willpower and whatever you need to use to stop it, you got to stop it.

"We know that actually

smoking cigarettes not only increases the risk of lung cancer, but increases the risk of other cancers.

"So, the number one thing you can do to prevent lung cancer is to quit smoking,; quit not reduce, and you should do it today," Dr. Unwala advises.

The Cancer Society of The Bahamas marks November as the month to bring awareness to Lung Cancer Awareness Prevention and Pancreatic cancer.

Smith's Duplicity—Bacon's Countless Court Absences

We covered the start of this war with articles describing the battle over easement rights, the mysterious burning of a home, the blocks to rebuilding, and countless questionable court filings. This series of articles asks the needed questions and presents the arguments in full.

Fred Smith, Save The Bays Director and attorney, is hypocritically up in arms over fashion mogul Peter Nygard's application (submitted by attorney Damian Gomez) to be excused from court appearances, despite the fact that hedge-fund billionaire Louis Moore Bacon is absent from all court cases he has launched in The Bahamas.

A recent *Tribune* article "Supreme Court Judge To Give Ruling On Nygard's Absence" reported, "Fred Smith, QC, lead counsel for the Save The Bays (STB), objected to Mr Gomez's application on the grounds that acceding to it would be prejudicial to STB."

The article says this about the response from Mr. Nygard's attorney:

"Mr Gomez also submitted that given the circumstances, Mr Nygard's absence and consequent application can cause no prejudice to STB. He said he was 'at a loss' about STB's claims on the matter."

Mr. Gomez has to be at a loss over Fred Smith's hypocritical objections when every court case involving Louis Bacon is taking place without Louis Bacon being present.

Yet, the article explains, "Mr Smith insisted on STB's opposition of his [Nygard's] excusal application."

Bacon has brought cases against people for contempt of court and has never shown up in court for any of these cases. He has brought lawsuits against several individuals and hasn't shown up for them. Fred Smith and Louis Bacon's cohort of attorneys have the Bahamian Courts tied up in numerous cases involving Louis Bacon or organizations with which he is associated, like Save The Bays and the Coalition To Save Clifton. Many of these cases have been ongoing and will go into next year.

Even though the principle of having the right to face your accusers in court generally applies to criminal prosecutions, it can't be right for one person to launch countless court cases in a country he is not even a citizen of and then absent himself from every court proceeding, insinuating that every individual accused in court of offense against Louis Bacon has no right to confront him in court.

In essence, what's going on is that Fred Smith insists that no one else be allowed to be

THE CLIFTON REVIEW

By P. J. Malone

The Clifton Review is a bi-weekly column that examines the question of the Clifton project along with the evolution of the war between two billionaires, the links to unsavory characters, the use of the courts for personal agendas, the involvement of the Government opposition party (the FNM), and the attacks on the Government of The Bahamas.

absent from court. Yet, Louis Moore Bacon, a non-Bahamian, is pumping millions of dollars into the pockets of attorneys in The Bahamas like Fred Smith and others, to oppose whoever he likes while absent; and in the mean time requiring the Bahamian people to foot the bill for the hundreds of court hours and court officer salaries.

How fair is that?

And don't forget why: Because Louis Bacon is financially supporting Save The Bays campaign against one man for doing all of the same things Fred Smith himself has done, the Lyford Cay association has done, and Louis Moore Bacon has done.

Think about it. That is the campaign the Bahamian people are funding with millions of dollars of taxpayer monies paying court officials salaries so Louis Bacon can run his 'destroy-at-all-cost' campaign against Peter Nygard no matter the cost to the Bahamian people.

There is really something wrong with this picture.

Further, the one man who is the source of Bacon's contempt, Peter Nygard, is finding himself having to constantly defend himself in the courts against the unfair attacks by Save The Bays and Louis Bacon.

The *Tribune* article reported what Fred Smith is deviously declaring: "The Supreme Court is not a 'see-saw' that Mr Nygard can merely 'pivot' on when he sees fit."

So what is Fred Smith suggesting? That Save The Bays and Louis Bacon have the right to use the Bahamian courts as they see fit but no one else? No one has that right, but only one group is constantly seen as doing it.

Well, know this Fred Smith. The Bahamas is not a donkey that Louis Bacon can ride endlessly. Don't be surprised when that donkey turns around and kicks him for attempting to constantly take advantage of the Bahamian people and our court system to enact his ridiculous hatred of Peter Nygard.

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The Bahama
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Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

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E D I T O R I A L

DIGNITY AFFRONTED

Dearly beloved, please be reminded that: "...The basis for the theme of Human Dignity is that humans were created in the image and likeness of God. Regardless of any factors or reasons we can think of, individuals have an inherent and immeasurable worth and dignity; each human life is considered sacred. This theme is about our radical equality before God that leads us to think no less of somebody because they are from a different place or culture, because they believe something different to you or because of their work or employment situation..."

"The principle of Human Dignity takes a strong position on issues around the start and end of life (like the death penalty and abortion) but it also has big consequences for everything in-between. For example it can affect how we think about how our society supports those with disabilities; how we address global inequality and the approach we take to civil rights issues.

"The idea that each life has value shares a lot in common with International Human Rights which are also universal, inviolable and inalienable. It grounds Human Dignity in the firm foundations of the Catholic Church's traditions thought about the sanctity of creation as told in the story of our creation (Genesis) and God's incarnation (Gospels)..."

Whether we turn to the east, west, north or south, we find instance after bloody instance where human dignity is offended; where men, women and children – and indeed, also, any number of undocumented migrants who live under a penumbra of fear.

Such is the power of their fear that many who could or should regularize themselves routinely resort to magical thinking as they try to conjure their fears away.

Alas! The day of the Yellow Bus arrives and with it, the big men who do what they have to do; and when they 'do their thing' a man or a woman with mouths to feed; with children to school wake to find themselves on the Road to the Detention Centre.

And thus it now transpires that children suffer as their parents face sudden return to the Republic of Haiti – a land many of them no longer know!

This is so very sad; it is also so very unnecessary.

Our advocacy is simple — if they are undocumented, they should be given every opportunity to be documented; if they are not paying their fair share of the tax, it should be demanded.

It really is as simple as that!

And thus, the sum of the matter suggests as follows, namely that: We live in times that are hard and that we are collectively engaged in a very serious struggle to help right the way we treat not only each other, but also with how we treat with the stranger in our gates; with our brothers and sisters who are hurting or who – for whatever reason – are now suffering as a direct result not only of their choosing; but also as a direct result of public policies that have failed them!

The truth of the matter is that – as in all things human - error is always built into the very fabric of human initiative; and therefore it follows that, we do make mistakes on occasion; and clearly, there are times in life when we get things right. Such is life — and therefore – as suggested in the Scriptures, we rejoice in the arrival and departure of each day; and so do we on occasion mourn and at other times we rejoice.

But yet, we feel obliged to suggest that, the lives we live day in and day out in our country can become far more commodious were we to take time to realize that whilst we do have a right to secure our borders and also to help see to it that the rule of law is upheld. This we do when we decide to enforce the law of the land.

But surely, we should not do this duty to our nation and to its highest ideals when and if we treat undocumented human beings [for the most part, Haitians] as if they were some new species of dread vermin; and thus the way some of these people are routinely humiliated by people whose ancestors were [back in the day] routinely abused and distressed; and, too boot, treated as if they were gangsters and criminals.

Well in the truth be known, these people are hard-working and productive; thus making them some of the most productive workers in today's hard-scrabble, hard-edged, cold and calculating Bahamas.

We should – as a matter of the most urgent priority – respect each and every human person with whom we come into contact.

Human dignity matters.

Letter to the Editor

More taxes for business foreshadowed

Coming on the heels of the OECD and its G-20 and European Union (EU) members threatening 'blacklistings' a few short months ago Mr. K. Peter Turnquest, Bahamas Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Finance suggests The Bahamas might have to look at implementing a low rate corporate income tax in order to comply with demands from the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

How the Bahamas will comply and whether it will be forced to adopt a corporate income tax is disconcerting.

Bearing in mind businesses already pay a business license tax on gross income, the threat of even more taxation, following on the heels of the introduction of Value Added Tax that has had such a negative impact on local businesses 2015 is casting a very gloomy outlook for meaningful economic growth.

Another aspect of these proposals that appears to be going unchallenged is the fact that they are being forced on

us by a supranational organization.

Even Mike Moore, former Director-General of the World Trade Organization and former New Zealand Prime Minister, called for better transparency with decisions like these.

He put it this way:

"Citizens of individual countries will not, and should not, accept any form of international regulation or institution over which they have little control. Keeping control of bureaucrats at a domestic level is tough enough: at an international level it will be tougher."

"In the end there is no single structure, institution, theory, flow chart or magic bullet. Domestic civil society was painfully built up over centuries by thousands of concerned individuals and their interaction. Trust in law and society's institutions was eventually earned. International civil society will be built on integrity, and respect will be earned on the basis of results. But it's a long, imperfect process."

The Bahamas taxation system needs rationalization but surely that does not mean simply adding another layer of extraction?

The OECD continues to move the goal posts as they relate to compliance issues.

As the sitting Minister of Finance said back in May 2017; "No business can continue with a constantly evolving set of standards. There must be some period of consistency. They [the OECD] have to stop themselves. Otherwise the world will see it for what it is: Unfair competition, and the strong preying on the perceived weak."

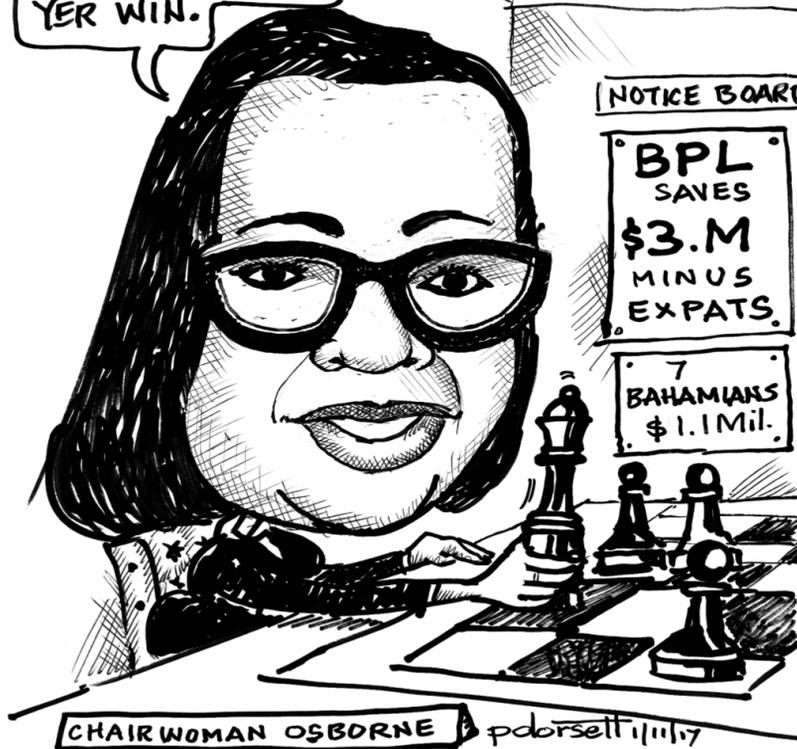
The Bahamas is stark proof that increased taxes, bureaucracy and regulations do not solve economic woes but add to them. Adding yet another layer - more business income taxes - will more than likely slow prospects for economic growth even further.

Yours in Liberty,
Rick Lowe
www.weblogbahamas.com

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Emera seeks to attain shares of ICD Utilities Limited

BY ONIKE ARCHER
Journal Staff Writer

Outspoken Queens Counsel, Fred Smith, is questioning Emera International's endeavour to attain all remaining shares of ICD Utilities (ICDU) Limited.

"What is it to stop Emera International in five or ten years redeeming the depository receipts from the Bahamian shareholders, just like Grand Bahama (GB) Power is right now redeeming \$15 million of the \$35 million preference shares issued to Bahamians directly from GB Power," Mr. Smith stated.

The attorney questions GB Power distribution of shares in exchange for ICDU shares. "So just like GB Power has issued shares, albeit preference shares directly, in GB Power, why can't GB Power issue ordinary shares in exchange for the ICDU shares which people do not want to sell.

"That is fair and respectful; giving shares directly in GB Power in exchange for ICDU shares," he said.

Mr. Smith then listed benefits of such exchange.

It maintains the integrity of the reason for Bahamian purchase in the first place 23 years ago. It maintains Bahamian ownership directly in the Bahamian power plant; protects growth in value for the Bahamian investor.

It means that Bahamians have direct jurisdictional participation and regulatory participation in GB Power's affairs, by keeping the ownership local.

It maintains Emera's rationale of streamlining their corporate shareholding structure which is what they say they wish to do and GB Power is by any financial formula, the most profitable company in the Emera group.

He also detailed benefits regarding taxes. He said "the 20 year exemption from real property taxes, business license taxes, personal taxes or corporate taxes under the Hawksbill Creek agreement and given that they have now repaid the loan for the new 25 Mega Watt power plant they built seven or so years ago."

He concluded that this is a financially catastrophic deal for Bahamian investors in ICDU and such takeover of compulsory divestiture of Bahamian shares is nothing more than a corporate raid depriving Bahamians who currently would benefit more profitably from owning shares directly in Grand Bahama Power or through ICD Utilities than they would by owning an average value in Emera International.

Joint Border Security Workshop With Customs and Immigration Officers Concludes

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Hon. Peter Turnquest said the complex nature of security is a challenge for all analysts, and tools are needed to crack complex security problems and assist in combating the proliferation and illicit trade of illegal firearms and ammunition and other contraband.

As a result, DPM Turnquest said the Joint National Border Security Workshop involving 29 Bahamas Customs and Immigration Officers, is indicative of the irrefutable call to mobilise to meet the growing challenges.

The DPM was speaking at the closing ceremony of the workshop at Customs Headquarters, Friday, November 3, 2017.

The training is one component of the much wider programme of works funded by the European Union's 10th European Development Fund geared towards strength-

ening the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) capacity to prevent and detect illegal activity at its borders and to enable increased prosecution and higher conviction rates.

DPM Turnquest thanked the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and the EU for coordinating and conducting the five-day workshop.

"The goals of CARICOM's IMPACS are to significantly improve citizen security in CARICOM, create a safe, just, free and economically viable environment and advance the region's security interests in order that citizens may achieve their human development goals.

"The strategy prioritises the common security risks and threats which our country and the region are facing."

The DPM said the greatest of these

threats is the relationship between transnational organised crime nexus of the illicit commodities of drug and guns and their primary facilitation of corruption and gangs.

"Critical to addressing this risk is the increase in trans-border intelligence/information sharing and the strengthening of our borders."

DPM Turnquest told the participating officers that as a result of the training, they should experience improved security techniques which would allow a reduction in wait times at checkpoints as passengers and cargo of no interest can be readily identified and processed.

He added that their interviewing techniques, fraudulent document inspection, body language analysis, and luggage and person examination should all experience an improvement.



► Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Hon. Peter Turnquest attended the closing ceremony of the Joint National Border Security Workshop where 29 Bahamas Customs and Immigration Officers received certificates of completion at the Customs Headquarters, Friday, November 3, 2017. Pictured standing left to right: Comptroller of Customs, Dr. Geannine Moss; DPM Turnquest; Officer Andrew Gittens; and the Director of Immigration, William Pratt. (BIS Photo/Lionella Gilbert)

FOUR IN CUSTODY FOR DRUG AND AMMUNITION POSSESSION

Police took four adult males into custody following the seizure of a quantity of dangerous drugs and marijuana on Saturday.

According to reports

shortly after 11:00am, Southeastern Division officers were on routine patrol in the area of Winders Terrace and Malcolm Road, when they observed four

males standing on a premises acting suspiciously. The males were then accosted and they, along with the premises were searched. Police say during the

search, 6 live rounds of ammunition and a quantity of marijuana were found. The four males were subsequently taken into custody.

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DNA LEADER DISAPPROVES OF MPS SALARY INCREASE

BY ONIKE ARCHER
Journal Staff Writer



► Democratic National Alliance (DNA) leader Christopher Mortimer (Journal file photo)

To say that the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) leader Christopher Mortimer disapproves of members of the Free National Movement (FNM) receiving a pay increase is an understatement.

In a statement Mr. Mortimer sent The Bahama Journal, he wrote, "Not only were the Prime Minister's comments sickening and tone deaf, but they wreak of hypocrisy and prove once and for all that Dr. Minnis is a far cry from the transformative leader he wishes us to think he is."

In House of Assembly last week, Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis informed Bahamians he will raise the salaries of members of his government at the next budget.

The Bahama Journal spoke with Mr. Mortimer about his sentiments regarding the Prime Minister's declaration to which Mr. Mortimer said, "It has been a while since members of Parliament have received a pay raise, but the fact of the matter is, a parliamentarian still makes more than what the average person makes who works for government makes in a year."

He continues, "The average person who works in a government ministry, they're barely making \$210 a week; \$10 thousand dollars or \$13 thousand dollars a year."

In addition to minister's annual salary of \$28 thousand dollars, Mr. Mortimer stressed the fact that they also receive an allowance of \$18 thousand dollars to run their constituency; "they cannot cry that they're not being adequately compensated." Mr. Mortimer said.

However, Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest clarified to The Journal the exact dollar amount to operate offices, salaries and expenses; he stated that it is \$30 thousand dollars per annum.

Furthermore, in 2014 during the Christie administration's overture for a salary

increase, in response to such desires, Dr. Minnis stated, "As long as I am leader of this country the FNM would not support any pay increase with all the pain and suffering that is going on in this country."

Although such increase is not scheduled until the budget cycle next year, Parliamentarians' salary raise is seemingly not sitting well with many Bahamians as they have questioned how can one ask for a raise after only being on the job for six months while the economy is at a standstill?

Mr. Mortimer expanded on the country's economic crisis. He stated, "The economy is teetering on the edge of a calamity."

Referencing the FNM's slogan during their campaign for office, Mr. Mortimer emphasized, "a week marred by unprecedented reports of layoffs across both the public and private sectors and during the worst economic crisis the country has ever seen when Bahamians are experiencing suffering at an exponential level."

"Clearly, when the Prime Minister said it was the people's time, he was referring to members of his government and not the wider voting public."

He concluded, "how could this administration, after stripping so many Bahamians of their dignity, think a raise for MP's would be the appropriate way forward and what, if anything has this administration done to deserve a pay increase?" said Mortimer.



FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Willie Chapa, Single,
of 11 Old Military Road, Garciasville, TX 78547, United States of America

and

Bianca Bazan, Single,
of 11 Old Military Road, Garciasville, TX 78547, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Nicholas Franklin Pelletier, Single,
of 115 Foxhill Lane, Enfield, CT 06082, United States of America

and

Melanie L Cox, Single,
of 115 Foxhill Lane, Enfield, CT 06082, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Steven Scott Ouding, Divorced,
of 6039 Thistlewood Ave., Scotts, MI 49088, United States of America

and

Donna Kay Chippewa, Divorced,
of 6039 Thistlewood Ave., Scotts, MI 49088, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Richard George Marlenee, Divorced,
of 207 Smith Ave., Scobey, MT 59263, United States of America

and

Cindy Jean Garberg, Divorced,
of 207 Smith Ave., Scobey, MT 59263, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Hugo Enrique Garcia Quiroz, Single,
of 13593 Saddle Drive, Mead, CO 80542, United States of America

and

Maura Dennine Sanchez, Single,
of 13593 Saddle Drive, Mead, CO 80542, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Peter Thomas Duffin, Single,
of 84 Castlemore Avenue, Belfast BT6 9RG, Ireland

and

Leah Marie Despard, Single,
of 84 Castlemore Avenue, Belfast BT6 9RG, Ireland

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Zachary Taylor King, Single,
of 700 E Drake Road Apt. N12, Fort Collins, CO 80525, United States of America

and

Hannah Valorie Combs, Single,
of 700 E Drake Road Apt. N12, Fort Collins, CO 80525, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 27th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages