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75 CENTS

Dialysis Patients Increasing

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

Health Minister, Dr. Duane Sands, has revealed that in the last five years, more patients have been added to the list of Bahamians suffering renal failure.

This Non-Communicable Disease (NCD), Dr. Sands said, is just one of many, as the over indulgence of sweets, salty, fatty, processed and fermented foods, landed The Bahamas in a leading position in many of the



► Health Minister, Dr. Duane Sands (File photo)

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Health Survey Launched On NCD's

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

The Ministry of Health officially launched its 2019 STEPS wise Health Survey, with the aim and intent of collecting data on health habits, and prevalence of risk factors for Non-communicable Diseases.

This is the third such round for The Bahamas, having conducted the same survey in 2005 and

2012, making The Bahamas the only country in the Americas to have participated in more than one round of the STEPS study.

Health Minister, Dr. Duane Sands said the health survey is a powerful tool that will allow for a better understanding in chartering the course in the health sector.

"At the CARICOM

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US GOV'T SHUTDOWN NOT AFFECTING BAHAMAS, SAYS MINISTER

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Tourism and Aviation Minister Dionisio D'Aguilar has confirmed that the partial government shutdown in The United States which has resulted in a strain on their national aviation system, is not affecting The Bahamas.

According to reports Miami International Airport is providing the most visible evidence that



► Tourism Minister Dionisio D'Aguilar (File photo)

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SOCIAL SERVICES & URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES NEW YEAR IN CHURCH SERVICE



► Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. Peter Turnquest gives the keynote address at the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development's New Year church service at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, January 14, 2019. (BIS Photos/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.)

Convicted Drug Dealer Back Before Courts

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

A convicted drug dealer was one of two Bahamian men charged in connection with a big drug bust in New Providence last

week.

No stranger to the courts, 44-year-old Nheru Newton, of Wellington Street and 22-year-old, Ernest Knowles Jr of

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Chamber To Conduct Study For WTO

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC) is planning on conducting its own study into The Bahamas' accession to the World Trade

Organization (WTO).

To do so, it has engaged Oxford Economics - which has undertaken a comprehensive review of the local economy.

According to the Chamber's WTO Representative, Darren

■ See page 2...

2018 - A Busy Year For Drug Arrests

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

During the year 2018 a total of 1,666 people were arrested on drug charges, with 1,397 charged and 269 not charged, according to a report released by the Commissioner of Police.

Last year, 131 persons were arrested for cocaine, 41 for possession of cocaine, 76 for possession with the intent to supply, one for taking steps preparatory, nine for the importation of cocaine and four for cocaine cap-

■ See page 4...

UB PROFESSOR SEEKS JUSTICE

An outspoken University of The Bahamas professor is seeking justice after being "chased" off campus by security this past Saturday.

Professor Felix Bethel told The Journal that in late December he received a schedule indicating when and where he would conduct classes for the Spring 2019 semester and has conducted three since the semester started last week.

Mr. Bethel has since

sought representation from Attorney Wayne Munroe who recommend that he should continue classes as of yesterday evening.

Upon arriving to the campus, Mr. Bethel told The Journal that security met him at the Michael H. Eldon Complex and asked him to leave once again.

Mr. Bethel, accompanied by members of the Union of Tertiary

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

Dialysis Patients Increasing

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known NCD's risk factor.

"To illustrate how things have progressed in just a five-year window, the number of Bahamians with end stage renal disease has

increased by a whopping 33 percent -from approximately 400 in 2012, to at least 600 in 2018," Dr. Sands said.

"Many believe these numbers to be on the conservative side," he said.

Couple with the

increase of dialysis patients, Dr. Sands added that the cost of treatment is in the millions of dollars.

"For these patients, the public purse is taxed an estimated \$25 million each year to provide dialysis treatment, and this is

just a small fraction of our health expenditure.

"NCD's as a whole demand the lion share of our national health budget annually in providing medications, health and rehabilitation services.

Dr. Sands added NCD's not only carry a

financial burden, but a physical and emotional one as well.

"Equally as important, are the social costs borne by NCD's such as reduced productivity, loss of wages, and disability, along with the strain and stress on fami-

ly support systems.

"Without doubt, NCD's are a scourge that does not discriminate.

"We can all feel, see and touch what is left in its aftermath because it affects the people we know and love," Dr. Sands said.

Health Survey Launched On NCD's

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Port-of-Spain meeting in 2007, with Heads Of Government, it was projected that by 2030 the death rate of people dying from non-communicable diseases would increase by 300 percent.

"Countries in the Region of the Americas, including our Caribbean nations are moving full steam ahead to achieve this frightening target, a hard, but real pill to swallow," Dr. Sands said.

According to the Ministry of Health, NCD's account for 74 percent of deaths in the country, also contributing to the increased expenditure in the health sector.

The STEPS survey, which is anticipated to have almost 4,000 Bahamians between the age 18 to 69 volunteer, began in Family Islands yesterday and will begin in New Providence on January 21.

Dr. Sands said that the hope is each participant sees it as an "opportunity to be an integral part of the solution to our health ills.

"We believe this study will have significant value in charting our course in the health sector as a nation.

"Its findings will, in part, map our collective progress related to the specific NCD risk factors. Of interest, it will also

break new ground, generating novel baseline data on national salt intake and oral health practices; as well as determining our population's specific risk for cardiovascular disease.

"Findings from this study will enhance our ability to report on several local and international indicators, such as those in the NCD's Global Monitoring Framework and for the Sustainable Development Goals," Dr. Sands said.

Family Islands that have been selected to participate in the STEPS study include Abaco, Cat Island, Eleuthera, Exuma, Grand Bahama and Inagua.

Dr. Sands noted that this will allow for a cross section of Bahamians to be surveyed.

"The islands selected and the persons selected on those islands are intended to give a representative cross sampling of Bahamians and Bahamian behavior.

"What we don't want is a situation where you get data and there are implicit biases or methodologic errors that you cannot use the data to say this is representative of The Bahamas.

"What we'd like to know, for better for worse, is how many of us are overweight, how many of us are obese, how many of

us have high blood pressure, how many of us have diabetes, how many of us exercise, how much water do we drink, what is our salt intake like, [and] oral health practices are," Dr. Sands said.

Acting Chief Medical Officer Dr. Pearl McMillain said that those who have been selected to conduct the survey are trained individuals and encourages those who may be selected to fully participate.

"We have partnered with the Department of Statistics, which conduct national surveys regularly so having done that we would benefit from methodology that they utilize to conduct national surveys, and now we are doing it with STEP survey, which also incorporates the methodology behind it from WHO.

"We would really like to encourage people to participate, because for the data to be represented, we need participation.

"So, when persons come knocking to your door, please open the door, allow them in, listen to the questions and then continue with the survey," Dr. McMillain said.

Other partners include the University of The Bahamas, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Chamber To Conduct Study For WTO

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Pickstock, this will include a complete assessment of the economic implications of The Bahamas actually becoming a member of the WTO.

"Given the importance of trade to our national economy, there has been significant public discourse about the prospects of WTO accession and its potential impact on our economy, business, and the people of The Bahamas," he said.

"Therefore, the Chamber thought it critical to engage Oxford Economics in order to obtain an independent study before it can make an informed and a fact based decision on whether it thinks it is beneficial for The Bahamas to join the World Trade Organization," he added.

"Oxford Economics, as you may be aware, has a proven track record of assisting governments and private sector organizations around the world with economic modeling, forecasting and global

macro and policy scenario analysis," said Mr. Pickstock.

While it is not a silver bullet, Mr. Pickstock, said the report will assist the Chamber in making a determination on whether it supports The Bahamas' accession to the WTO.

"It's a fluid negotiation and so the intention is that the ministry will have to come back to the private sector and the business community and that won't be next month, that won't be in February.

"And the intention is for that report to be in place, so that when the government do come back to the private sector and when we engage with our members we can rely on that report in those discussions with the members and with the government in order to assist them in addressing any concerns and in order to assist us in addressing any concerns that may be raised," Mr. Pickstock said.

Chamber Chief Executive Officer, Jeffery Beckles, said

they will hold several fora with their membership as well as the wider community.

"We've actually circulated the report on Wednesday once it was released.

"It is our intention over the next coming days, in the next week or two to collaborate with our members and other members of the business community who have had a chance to review the document," he added.

"And this of course is a critical stage for us, because up to this point, very little information had been released.

"So we're trying to maximize the effort in the next ten days to two weeks, so that we can at least begin the process of giving the government some feedback," he said.

The study should be completed in early April.

The report will then be shared with the government.

Elements of the report will also be shared with and made available to the public.

Convicted Drug Dealer Back Before Courts

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Misty Gardens, stood before Deputy Chief Magistrate, Subusola Swain, on one count each of possession of dangerous drugs with the intent to supply and conspiracy to possess dangerous drugs with the intent to supply.

The court heard how the pair on Wednesday, January 9th, 2019, in New Providence - being concerned together and with others - were found with a quantity of dan-

gerous drugs and conspired to possess dangerous drugs, namely Indian Hemp with the intent to supply to another.

The weight of the drugs - 554lbs.

The men pleaded not guilty to both charges and were remanded to The Bahamas Department of Corrections until April 5, 2019.

They were not granted bail.

Newton, who has a long sheet of convictions, was one of drug

kingpin Samuel "Ninety" Knowles' former associates.

According court documents, Newton along with 5 others, testified against Ninety Knowles and received reduced sentences as a result.

He and another man were also accused of pulling guns on Knowles' 17-year-old son at the time, Teddy Knowles, and threatening to kill him.

Newton is said to be the nephew of Ninety Knowles.

The Bahama Journal

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CONGRATULATIONS BAHAMAS FOR WINNING THE CARIBBEAN TRAVEL AWARDS DESTINATION OF THE YEAR

Also Congratulations to The Minister of Tourism & Aviation Dionisio D'Aguiar for Winning Caribbean Tourism Minister of the Year!

2018

Ministry Seeks To Improve Social Services

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Officials are looking to change the public's perception of the Ministry of Social Services.

This comes as bad attitudes and poor customer service are the two labels that have been slapped on

social service workers; a serious source of concern that begs the need for change.

Social Services Minister Frankie Campbell on the sidelines of the Ministry of Social Service's annual church service at St. Barnabas Anglican church yesterday morning said

that plans have been put in place to up the sensitization.

"We have sought to put in place programs of sensitization and programs that will afford our staff an opportunity to refresh themselves, to rejuvenate and to have this empathetic spirit that is necessary.

"This church service is one of those things that we're doing. If you look at our theme, transforming for the journey in 2019 and beyond, and you think of transformation, we're talking about that internal transformation that will result in greater productivity and service to our

clients," he said.

According to the minister, the new measures have led to notable improvements.

"Yes, I have actually had some reports from clients of improvements that they have observed, people have commended the various centers that have

improved and I'm satisfied that it is going to be ongoing," Mr. Campbell said.

Also attending this morning church service was Acting Prime Minister Peter Turnquest who encouraged all to accept the challenge of making the necessary improvements.



► Hon. Frankie Campbell, Minister of Social Services giving his address to members of the Urban Development and Social Services Depts. (BIS Photos/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.)



MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND REVENUE
REAL PROPERTY TAX NOTICE for 2019

In accordance with the Real Property Tax Act, Chapter 375 as amended, the Chief Valuation Officer hereby gives notice:-

- (a) that copies of the assessment lists are available as required by Section 7 subsection 7 of the Act, and may be inspected at the Office of the Chief Valuation Officer;
- (b) that a notice of assessment addressed to each owner of property liable to tax under the Real Property Tax Act is available at the Valuation Office, located at rear of the shops at Carmichael Plaza, Carmichael Road and may be collected therefrom by or on behalf of the owner of such property during normal working hours;
- (c) that pursuant to subsection (3) of Section 7 of the Act, upon the expiration of five days after the publication of this notice, a notice of assessment shall be deemed to have been served on every owner of property liable to tax under the Act;
- (d) that without prejudice to the provision of subsection (3) of Section 7 of the Act, the Chief Valuation Officer may at any time after the publication in the Gazette of this notice send by post, a notice of assessment addressed to any owner of property liable to tax under the Act;
- (e) that pursuant to Section 11(1) of the Act, any person aggrieved by a notice of assessment deemed to have been served under this Act may object thereto by serving on the Chief Valuation Officer within thirty days after the date on which the notice of assessment is deemed to have been served, a notice in writing of such objection stating the grounds upon which he relies;
- (f) that pursuant to Section 18 of the Act, the tax is due and payable by the owners of property not later than sixty days after the date on which notice of assessment is deemed to have been served. Accordingly, it is the duty of each taxpayer to ensure that he receives a Notice of Assessment;
- (g) that the exemption has been allowed for 2019 on those which have been declared as owner-occupied residences, and have satisfied the conditions. However, under Section 43 of the Act, the owners are required to disclose to the Chief Valuation Officer any change in the circumstances which does not entitle the property for the exemption allowed;
- (h) that pursuant to Section 10 of the Act, every owner of property shall not later than the thirty-first day of December in each year, make to the Chief Valuation Officer in the prescribed form a return of such particulars of that property as may be prescribed, for the purpose of enabling that Officer to compile and maintain accurate assessment lists, and such owner shall declare to the correctness of such return before an authorized person.

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US Gov't Shutdown Not Affecting Bahamas, Says Minister

Continued from / PAGE 1...

the government shutdown is making travel less convenient with TSA Screeners not showing up to work because they have not been paid.

With the Miami International Airport being the closet port of entry between The

Bahamas and the USA, Mr. D'Aguilar said he has been advised that operations at Lynden Pindling International Airport have not been interrupted.

"As the government shutdown rather annoyingly continues, one doesn't really know how the TSA not being paid is

going to react.

"Right now, I have been advised that certainly at LPIA that operations are continuing at a normal pace."

"Boarder protection is doing what they need to do and there have been no interruption in service for which we are deeply and greatly

appreciative," he said.

Mr. D'Aguilar added that he has been advised by travellers of the situation in Miami, Florida.

"In the United States I have been advised by some of the traveling public that instead of allowing two hours, they are allowing three hours just in case.

"What they did in Miami is they closed down one security screening line or they're pushing passengers into a smaller number of lines.

"So rather than spread them over 10 lines, they are now spreading them over nine lines and so obvi-

ously that is going to make your processing time longer and you have to allow additional time when you travel," Mr. D'Aguilar said.

The US government shut down has been in affect now for 24 days and is the longest US government shut down since 1995.

2018 - A Busy Year For Drug Arrests

Continued from / PAGE 1...

sules.

Statistics show that 24 people were arrested for both cocaine and marijuana, seven for possession and 17 for possession with the intent to supply.

There were also 1,453 people taken in for marijuana - 835 for possession of marijuana, 592 for possession with intent to supply, 13 marijuana plants, five for importation, two for conspiracy to import marijuana, and six for baked marijuana goods.

Four people were arrested for marijuana

and hashish - one for possession of marijuana and hashish and three for possession with the intent to supply.

One person was arrested for possession of hashish, for importation with the intent to supply heroin, and four people for possession with the intent to supply meth.

There were 48 persons arrested and questioned in reference to dangerous.

There were 1481 drugs cases - 1040 in New Providence, 268 in Grand Bahama, and 173 in the family islands.

There were 1039 cases prosecuted - 722 in New

Providence, 181 in Grand Bahama, and 136 in the family islands.

As for persons charged, there were 928 adults and 27 juveniles in New Providence, 236 adults and three juveniles in Grand Bahama and 195 adults and eight juveniles in the family islands, making a total of 1,397 persons arrested and charged.

There were 269 not charged - 132 adults and 12 juveniles in New Providence, 114 adults and five juveniles in Grand Bahama and six adults in the family islands.

UB PROFESSOR SEEKS JUSTICE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Educators of The Bahamas (UTEB), asked security guards if it was legal to keep a professor under contact from conducting classes.

Their reported response was simply that they have received instructions to ensure that Mr. Bethel was not on the premises.

According to reports, University President Dr. Rodney Smith may have

some animosity towards Mr. Bethel following his publicized resignation for his comments after Dr. Smith plagiarized another president's speech back in 2005.

Dr. Smith, in his resignation letter to the college community, casted blame on "The Guardian, but more specifically The Tribune and The Bahama Journal and Mr. Felix Bethel".

Mr. Bethel has been an instructor at the institu-

tion for 45 years, but was not on the roster at the time of Dr. Smith's resignation.

When asked why he was not with the College at the time, Mr. Bethel revealed that the College was trying to terminate him.

Mr. Bethel said that Attorney Munroe has carriage on the matter and is seeking to get clarity on his schedule and contract to determine their next move.

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The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

“...let my people go...”

I, Felix Frederick Bethel hereby claim family connection to each and every human being on this planet; and thus, I now share the sad story of how it came to be that, my cousin, The Honourable Arthur William Hodge, Esq., graduate of Oriel College, Oxford ---a man of immense good manners whipped my cousin Prosper to death.

And now, hear ye, my brothers and sisters Cousin Arthur William [a white slave owner] whipped my cousin Nobody Prosper to death!

I read somewhere that after the sting of Hodge's whip: It wasn't long before Prosper's head fell back.

A white man, a Gentleman, was hanged for the murder of a slave, during slavery. For this to happen, Arthur Hodge, Esq., despite his high education, must have been hated by the whites on Tortola.

Hodge must have been a sadist.

Hodge must have committed acts of such depravity that even slave owners, during slavery, in the British colonies, were appalled. There must have also been a fear of slave uprising. Something was happening within the British colonies at that time for a man like Hodge to be hanged in the public square, like a common nobody, over the death of a nobody slave.

Prosper was my great-great, great grandfather on my father's side.

As I recently discovered, Hodge, the white, scum-bag/ man/master addressed the jury as follows:-- “Gentleman, As bad as I have been represented, or as bad as you may think me, I assure you, that I feel support in my affliction from entertaining a proper sense of religion. As all men are subject to wrong, I cannot but say that that principle is likewise inherent in me. I acknowledge myself guilty in regard to many of my slaves; but I call God to witness my innocence in respect of the murder of Prosp...I am sensible that the country thirsts for my blood, and I am ready to sacrifice it...”

And thus, I read: It wasn't long before Prosper's head fell back. No moans or wails could be heard from him, who

was now barely human, but more just strips of hanging flesh. Prosper was dragged to the sick house and chained to two other negro slaves.

The sick house was nothing more than a filthy hot boarded up hut where slaves were chained to the dirt ground. Either they recovered from the beatings or whatever disease had inflicted them, or they died in chains.

After five days, unable to take the stench of Prosper's rotting flesh, while he still drew laboured breaths, the two slaves chained to him, broke away.

When Prosper was found, not a piece of black flesh could be seen. The maggots had eaten him before he even died.

Note also that: Stephen M'Keogh, a white man, who had lived as manager on the Mr Hodge's estate, deposed, that he saw the deceased Prosper after he had been so severely flogged; that he could put his finger in his side; he saw him some days before his death in a cruel state; he could not go near him for the blue flies.

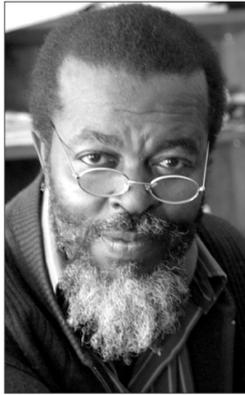
I also read that: No moans or wails could be heard from him, who was now barely human, but more just strips of hanging flesh--- Prosper was dragged to the sick house and chained to two other negro slaves.

Great God from Zion: [as I read somewhere]--- “...After five days, unable to take the stench of Prosper's rotting flesh, while he still drew laboured breaths, the two slaves chained to him, broke away.”

And for sure, I read: “...When Prosper was found, not a piece of black flesh could be seen. The maggots had eaten him before he even died...”

That was then!

This is now. What I do know in these last and evil days is that:---In the long ago years, that is to say in those hard days which existed --as it were-- in that myriad of days before this past yesterday when I was reminded of my entrance, some 69 years ago, to the light of day and to that sweet symphony of tastes inherent in bitters and sweets; I now remind you that in those long-ago years, a real scum-bag of a man, The Honourable Arthur



William Hodge was found guilty of murdering one of his slaves, a man named Prosper.

Prosper was my great-great, great grandfather on my dead father's side.

As I recently discovered, Hodge, the white, scum-bag/ man/master addressed the jury as follows:-- “Gentleman, As bad as I have been represented, or as bad as you may think me, I assure you, that I feel support in my affliction from entertaining a proper sense of religion. As all men are subject to wrong, I cannot but say that that principle is likewise inherent in me. I acknowledge myself guilty in regard to many of my slaves; but I call God to witness my innocence in respect of the murder of Prosper...I am sensible that the country thirsts for my blood, and I am ready to sacrifice it...”

And thus, I read: It wasn't long before Prosper's head fell back. No moans or wails could be heard from him, who was now barely human, but more just strips of hanging flesh. Prosper was dragged to the sick house and chained to two other negro slaves.

The sick house was nothing more than a filthy hot boarded up hut where slaves were chained to the dirt ground. Either they recovered from the beatings or whatever disease had inflicted them, or they died in chains.

After five days, unable to take the stench of Prosper's rotting flesh, while he still drew laboured breaths, the two slaves chained to him, broke away.

When Prosper was found, not a piece of black flesh could be seen. The maggots had eaten him before he even died.

Prosper was tied to a tree and flogged for almost an hour.

What troubles me is this: After all these years, the sadism continues.

Come now, Lord Jesus--set the captive free!

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Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

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E D I T O R I A L

Trump & KOMPROMAT

“...Given that Donald John Trump has defied decades of political tradition by assiduously refusing to release his tax returns, it's difficult to truly get to the bottom of his finances. But the public record is more than enough to demonstrate that the answer, in part, lies with Russia.”

The suggestion now is this: The Russians may --even now--have in their dossiers of kompromat-laced evidence involving the current President of the United States of America!

Whatever it is; wherever it is: The truth will out!

Today, we share some information now coming in which suggests that Donald John Trump may have been compromised by Vladimir Putin and his henchmen in Russia.

For information, then, note as follows: Kompromat:---Compromising information collected for use in blackmailing, discrediting, or manipulating someone, typically for political purposes.

Interestingly enough, this line of reasoning has found key space in the prestigious Washington Post newspaper in an illuminating piece written by Jennifer Rubin, herself most highly regarded in the writer's craft. As Rubin notes: “...President Trump's former attorney Michael Cohen says that Trump repeatedly lied during the campaign when he denied have any deals or anything to do with Russia. Others knew as well, presumably -- his daughter and son-in-law who worked on the project, Felix Sater who reached out to the Russian and -- this is key -- the Russians.

Therefore it follows that: If you believe Cohen, then Russians knew Trump was lying and Trump knew that they knew. That's leverage. Former FBI official Frank Figliuzzi explains: At any time, Vladimir Putin could use -- or perhaps he already has used -- knowledge of Trump's deceit to pressure Trump on everything from sanctions to public statements to policy on Ukraine.

This is precisely how kompromat works.

It is surely of some immediate note that [as Rubin explains]: Incoming House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) recently expressed concern about this exact problem.

Yet again, Rubin describes how and

why: Former FBI special agent Clint Watts agrees that Trump handed Putin “a window of opportunity should he choose to use it to discredit President Trump at any time President Trump doesn't do what President Putin likes.” Watts tells me, “I'm not sure he would employ that compromising knowledge at this point, but he could, maybe when meetings get canceled at the G20 for example and Putin begins to sour on Now leverage may come from other sources as well, says former acting CIA director John McLaughlin.

And thus, it follows that: The “seeds of blackmail come from the ongoing business negotiations and also from “the Trump Tower meeting on June 9, even if nothing came of it.” Clint Watts also notes that: “If we had never learned of it, Russia would have had in its kit bag an email from [Donald Trump, Jr.] saying ‘I'd love some dirt on Hillary from Russia.’ And could have threatened to reveal it at any time. Those around Trump clearly are naive about all of this.”

And as regards kompromat, Rubin argues that: Schiff raises the possibility that this is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to President Trump's financial dealings with Russia. If true, and especially if Trump was engaged in money laundering that might violate U.S. laws (something yet to be proven), Schiff says “Russians would be well aware of it,” and could hold (or be holding) that over Trump's head.

Now this: One does not need to prove Trump was engaged in any illegal business practices to conclude Trump was indebted to Russians.

The Moscow Project explains the Trump relationship with Russia, thusly:

That Kremlin-linked entities invested significantly in Trump's properties over the years is not inherently nefarious. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, wealthy Russians have invested heavily in real estate in the West, while Americans were in turn encouraged to invest in Russia. However, in the context of a president under several investigations for his connections to the Kremlin, Russia's outside role in Trump's re-emergence from financial tribulations that nearly destroyed his real estate empire merit additional attention. What emerges is the story of a man indebted to Russia through the oligarchs that President Vladimir Putin helped create and now controls.

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Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Gives \$25K to The Ranfurly Home for Children

For the first time ever, the National Executive Board Meeting of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated was held outside of the Continental United States of America. The conference was held from January 10th-12th at Baha Mar and brought more than 300 of its members to Bahamian shores. In keeping with the sorority's ideal of service and to leave an indelible imprint in The Bahamas, a significant contribution was made to The Ranfurly Home for Children. This initiative was spearheaded by the Regional Director of Florida and The Bahamas, Lawanda Harper, who worked diligently with all chapters to garner funds to make this happen.

On Saturday, January 12th, a cheque presentation was made to The Ranfurly Home for Children. Kristy Kemp, a member of the Board of Directors of the Home, was on hand to receive the donation.

"We would like to thank the sorority for the donation as this amount of money will go towards the initiatives, we have established for 2019 and beyond," Ms. Kemp said.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated International President, Valerie



► (L-R) Lawanda Harper, Regional Director for Florida and The Bahamas chapter presented Kristy Kemp, a member of the Board of Directors of the Home, with the donation. Valerie Hollingsworth Baker and Michelle Porter-Knowles also pictured during the presentation ceremony (Journal file photo)

Hollingsworth-Baker said the organization's foundation is to be "about service."

"We are about community service all over the world," she said. "Wherever there is a Zeta Chapter, we will do our best to give in those communities. When I became president in July last year, I told those gathered that we needed to move to see our international sisters. And so I am proud that we made it to The Bahamas and I am proud that we were able to make this donation possible. We hope that it makes the

lives of the children at the home much better."

There are three local chapters of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated in The Bahamas – Theta Epsilon Zeta Graduate Chapter (New Providence), Rho Upsilon Zeta Undergraduate Chapter (University of The Bahamas) and Beta Alpha Mu Zeta Graduate Chapter (Grand Bahama).

Theta Epsilon Zeta Chapter's President, Margaret Johnson-Rolle was delighted that the international arm of the organization sought to make a donation to The

Ranfurly Home for Children.

"They chose to do more than just bring 300 plus sorors to our shores," Mrs. Johnson-Rolle said. "They wanted to do something that would etch a stamp in the minds of the Bahamian society and did so by choosing The Ranfurly Home for Children and giving this large donation. We know the donation will go a long way."

While here, board members planned the way forward for the organization and in particular, provided the roadmap to their

celebration of 100 years of existence in June of 2020. A Centennial launch reception was held on Friday, January 11th that included an outstanding junkanoo presentation by The Colours Entertainment Junkanoo Group, led by Chris Justilien.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated is poised and ready to celebrate 100th years of Service, Scholarships and Sisterly Love in Washington D.C. where the organization was first founded.

President Hollingsworth-Baker also

made a courtesy call on The Prime Minister, The Rt. Honourable Dr. Hubert Minnis and Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Peter K. Turnquest at the Office of The Prime Minister on Wednesday, January 9th.

Since its inception, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated has continued its steady climb into the national spotlight with programs designed to demonstrate concern for the human condition both nationally and internationally. The organization has been innovative in that it has chronicled a number of firsts. It was the First National Pan-Hellenic Council organization to centralize its operations in a National Headquarters, the first to charter a chapter in Africa, the first to form auxiliary groups, and the first to be constitutionally bound to a fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated.

The sorority takes pride in its continued participation in transforming communities through volunteer services from members and its auxiliaries. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated has chartered hundreds of chapters worldwide and has a membership of more than 100,000.

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