

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
STATE OPENING AND BUDGET MEETING
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11.24 AM
Eleventh Sitting

The Speaker: I will call on the Honourable Second Official Member to say prayers.

PRAYERS

Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin, Second Official Member: Let us pray.

Almighty God, from whom all wisdom and power are derived: We beseech Thee so to direct and prosper the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly now assembled, that all things may be ordered upon the best and surest foundations for the glory of Thy Name and for the safety, honour and welfare of the people of these Islands.

Bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth II; Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; Charles, Prince of Wales; and all the Royal Family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Official Members and Ministers of Cabinet and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that we may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of our high office. All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake.

Let us say The Lord's Prayer together: *Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us and give us peace, now and always. Amen.

The Speaker: Good morning everyone. Proceedings are resumed. Please be seated.

Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I intend to raise a motion to deal with the matter of crime, and request that I do so now under Standing Order 12(1).

The Speaker: Standing Order 12(1) states that you ask leave of the House to move the adjournment of

the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance.

May I have the motion for adjournment?

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT
DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

[Standing Order 12(1)]

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SERIOUS ORGANISED
CRIME UNIT

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I move for that adjournment under [Standing Order] 12(1).

I would ask that you take a minute to have the motion circulated, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes, I shall do that. But that had to be done first.

Now, I received written notice of this matter, that the Honourable Premier wished to raise in the House this morning under a motion, and I will read what the Standing Order says.

[12(2)] **“Such a motion by the Member may not be made unless the Presiding Officer is satisfied that the matter is definite, urgent and of public importance, and- (a) the leave of the House is given; or (b) seven or more Members rise in their place to support the request.”**

I will put the motion for leave to be given at this time and . . .

Do we have copies of the motion that can be circulated to Members at this time?

[pause]

The Speaker: I have to have a motion that the leave of the House . . . **“[(3) If the Presiding Officer is satisfied that the motion may properly be made, and the leave of the House on that behalf is granted, the motion shall stand over until such [hour on the same day] as the Presiding Officer may appoint and, at that hour, any proceedings on which the House is engaged shall stand postponed until the motion for the adjournment is disposed of.”**

I shall ask the Premier to move the motion and . . .

[inaudible interjections]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes, um . . .

We are not going to adjourn. There is a motion for the adjournment. And this is not concluded. There is no vote taken on the motion for adjournment until the matter has been completed. That's what it says.

It says that—

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller, Member for North Side: Yes, Madam Speaker, but the ¹last time this was done, the vote was taken immediately and the House was not adjourned.

The Speaker: I am proceeding according to the Standing Orders on this particular issue. I can have seven Members stand in support of the Motion or we can have the leave of the House to continue with the Motion.

[All Honourable Members of the House rose]

The Speaker: Well, thank you all so very much for that show.

[inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: Now . . . now the support . . . no, we do not adjourn the House, we suspend the proceedings for the matter to be discussed after—

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, sorry . . .

[pause]

The Speaker: I did that. Okay.

I called for the motion for adjournment. I need to have someone [move] a motion for adjournment.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, I will do as I am directed. I move the adjournment at this point.

The Speaker: Now, you are now going to be given leave by my Chair to present the Motion to the House.

[inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, I crave your indulgence for a minute.

The Speaker: Okay.

[pause]

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: I still sit in this Chair, and I still make the decisions. Despite what you hear everywhere else, I make the decisions. And that goes for all Members concerned, because I think it is becoming apparent that there are people who wish to tell me through various methods and various areas what my role is in this Chair. I would suggest, as I have done before, [that you] get a copy of the Standing Orders, get a copy of the Constitution, get a copy of the Register of Interests, and Powers and Privileges of this House and read Erskine May's if you run out of information after that, on what the role of the Speaker is in the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME UNIT

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

WHEREAS the Members of this Honourable Legislative Assembly have registered their deep concern regarding the spike in dangerous crime, in particular gun crimes;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT all Honourable Members of this Legislative Assembly repeat the call on His Excellency the Governor (and the Commissioner of Police) to immediately recruit and deploy a serious and organized crime unit;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT such unit be a force of real and significant strength sufficient for the purpose, and enabled by the necessary levels and types of skill and experience, to fulfill the following critically urgent purposes:

- (a) to provide strongly enhanced detection, investigative and enforcement techniques;
- (b) to strategically hit at and dismantle all groups, gangs and individuals responsible for the drastic increase in crime, and, in particular, crimes involving the use of guns;
- (c) to provide a lead on permanent enhancement in the capability of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service to prevent, detect and investigate serious and organised crime and to enforce the law in that regard.

¹ See Official Hansard Report, [17 March 2011](#), pp 903–909

The Speaker: The Motion has been duly moved. Would the Honourable Premier like to speak thereto?

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, if I might . . .

Madam Speaker, I wish to propose before we enter into this very important debate, an amendment to this Motion.

Madam Speaker, you are aware from my discussion with you earlier that the Opposition was similarly inclined, although the form of the motion that we proposed was a bit different. But that is in no way seeking to detract from what has been proposed here.

But, Madam Speaker, we would wish . . . and, with your permission, I now propose that we amend this Motion to include a request that “Upon the completion of this debate that the Commissioner of Police and such other members of the Force, as he requires, do attend—

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, if I could just finish my proposal, and then we can discuss—

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, you can't move an amendment at this time.

The Speaker: I'm—

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I would ask you to wait until I have given my introduction and if you feel that you should move it after I have said what I have to say, then, go ahead.

Madam Speaker?

The Speaker: Yes, Mr. Premier, you cannot move an amendment at this point.

[addressing the Third Elected Member for George Town] When you rise to speak you may move an amendment.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: He can request it, at any time, I guess, but—

The Speaker: You can request the amendment. But until the motion has been presented . . . we have now read the motion. I need to hear what the Premier is going to say. He's the mover of the Motion. Every Member will have an opportunity to add their bits to it.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: And I ask the Leader of the Opposition to hear what I have to say, because, Madam Speaker, if he goes . . . if that's what he is saying, I have already done that. And I have . . . it doesn't have to be in the Motion.

Madam Speaker, I have already informed the Commissioner of Police, as of last night, and I had a meeting with him this morning; and I had a meeting with His Excellency the Governor this morning, and I have invited them to come here at the close of this debate when we finish here. And I have a further request of Members, which I will get into.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I hope that will satisfy all Members.

The Speaker: Yes.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Well, in the time they [would be here] to hear our debate they could be tending to matters that have to do with crime.

Madam Speaker—

The Speaker: Let's get the debate started because I am sure every Member is going to want to have their say.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, maintenance of law and order is an essential prerequisite for good governance. That is, I have always maintained, peace, order and good government, as well as for the continued viability of the Cayman Islands as a key centre for international finance and tourism. The success of these twin drivers of the local economy cannot be sustained without the ability of responsible persons to provide peace and security.

The current constitutional arrangements place the burden of responsibility for the maintenance of law and order with His Excellency the Governor and the Commissioner of Police. Subject to the duty to inform the National Security Council, they are solely answerable to the public on the single issue of most pressing concern to the residents of these Islands and to us as legislators, namely, the appalling spate of armed robberies and violent crime.

The responsibility of the Cayman Islands Government is to ensure that the Royal Cayman Islands Police is properly resourced in its fight against crime. There is no question of the commitment of the Cayman Islands Government to support the Royal Cayman Islands Police and the Commissioner in this important role and in this important battle. However, again in the interest of good governance, there has to be accountability and the public deserves to see tangible results.

Some statistics are good. And it gives some comfort to us and stakeholders who have to face a now daily threat to our security, wellbeing and viability. The Cayman Islands Government voted in the last Budget over \$32 million. This was an overwhelming display of its commitment to ensuring that the Commissioner and the Royal Cayman Islands Police have at their disposal all the requisite tools to enable them to detect, confront and punish an agile, violent criminal fraternity. Just on Tuesday, at their request, we

further gave them . . . because there were some cuts that the Foreign Office demanded, and have been demanding since 2009, that went across all agencies in government, all departments and ministries. And so, they asked for the cut in the Budget, they asked for the cut in, in particular, the emoluments of this country for the Civil Service. But we again gave, as I said, another million dollars. That would put it up to \$33 million.

Despite this commitment, the perception—and, indeed, the reality—is that crimes are on the increase. As of this year, Madam Speaker, from January 1 to September 4, there were already some 52 robberies, I believe it is. That is nine over the same time last year. Madam Speaker, whether it was one or nine, it is far too prevalent for these Islands. Armed robberies, home invasions and abductions, and the fear naturally engendered by such behaviour has now become the everyday language of good, honest, hardworking residents of these Islands.

This should not be a political issue. And the people, beyond the use of flashy equipment (and technological equipment is certainly necessary), deserve to know what steps are being taken to apprehend these criminals whose violent ways are directly impacting the lives of all law abiding residents of these Islands.

A failure to provide answers or solutions that are both transparent and attainable is a failure of good governance. A failure to achieve positive results and the like of the Cayman Islands Government's financial commitment brings into question the value of money. Madam Speaker, each constituent in these Islands is entitled, through its MLA, to require credible and thoughtful responses from those who are constitutionally and operationally responsible for policing in these Islands. Answers to these questions are needed now if we are to arrest the threat of a downward spiral into lawlessness and insecurity.

The Cayman Islands Government remains, without hesitation or hindrance, committed to supporting His Excellency the Governor and the Commissioner of Police in this battle against crime. With this commitment, which, after all, is a commitment to represent the position of everyday law abiding citizens of these Islands, comes a reasonable expectation that operationally effective steps will be taken to halt the senseless violence.

Madam Speaker, we have been discussing such matters with the Commissioner of Police. And they have put a response forward as follows: "The formation of a dedicated Robbery Unit tasked with proactively targeting those suspected of or previously engaged in this type of criminality." And, Madam Speaker, I am reading from a note to me from the Police Commissioner, Mr. Baines.

"Tactics include:

- Overt and covert approaches. Examples of overt would include targeted stop and search,

use of any legal means to intercept, arrest and charge with criminal offences.

- All operational staff being put onto 12-hour extended shifts which provides a boost of staff by 30 per cent to actively patrol vulnerable areas, mount roadblocks and undertake a preventative presence in high risk areas, both targeted premises and areas from which offenders are operating.
- Active support by Special Constables to deploy and support policing presence in areas of concern.
- Boosting of armed patrols in Cayman to ensure timely response to any incident with appropriately equipped officers.
- Establishment of a dedicated robbery hotline to enable information to be provided confidentially to enable the public to support the police with information.
- Active use of cameras to record stops of suspected and known offenders to ensure clothing and footwear are recorded, as many offenders use facemasks to thwart identification and camera presence." [UNVERIFIED QUOTE]

Now, that is some of what we were told as steps that were going to be taken.

What further steps can be undertaken? We believe and agree with the Commissioner:

- Provision of the Cayman Islands Government CCTV programme to be expedited to ensure the movement of offenders pre- and post-offence is monitored and potential evidence procured.
- The recent review of the Public Service noted a significant amount of time owed for overtime work with the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service. This would remove officers having to take time off and provide a further boost on a daily basis of officers.

"A longer term objective would be to review current judicial procedures to balance the disclosure requirements of the police and prosecutors to ensure that the defence has to provide skeleton agreements as to their defence which would prevent the use of ambush defence being laid by offenders once the entirety of the Crown's case is revealed by the disclosure process.

"The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service is appreciative of the Cayman Islands Government revising the staff and equipment cuts brought about by the Budget restrictions. Work is underway to urgently progress staff appointments and equipment provision. Any assistance to expedite the process in terms of removing or streamlining some of the bureaucratic procedures would be of assistance.

"Sincerely, David Baines, Commissioner of Police." [UNVERIFIED QUOTE]

Madam Speaker, as I said, we need to give some assurance. I am going to give the Commissioner the support he needs, and we have agreed on that. Whatever he needs, we are saying, this House must be prepared to do. The Government has been doing that. When we talk to him if there are new things that we think are necessary then it is correct to make sure that this happens. But I think from what Members have said, that nobody is going to countenance any move at this time, they are going to demand that what we are asking in this Motion be done to immediately recruit and deploy a serious and organised crime unit. In other words, Madam Speaker, a group that is going to kick them where it hurts to make them know that they cannot move about this country with impunity [when] they think it is some free-for-all and it is fun for them.

If anybody out there believes that this legislator is scared . . . and I must say, Madam Speaker, that we all have to be more than careful because this is not the Cayman that I grew up in. It is completely different. We have to be more than careful and I would say here to all Members that we must be judicious in what we say here in our criticisms even, less we give anybody the belief that we support them. Too much of that happens on the radio, where the police are constantly criticised and the criminals walk about with impunity, because people are saying, *Don't call them punks; don't call them this, don't call them that*. And when we say that, Madam Speaker, we are talking about some young fops, if I should use a different word (that's what I meant by that, and everybody knows what fops mean.) If that is slang, then, I use it.

But I am not going to be cowed by any such person. I am one who believes that this country is mine. This is where I was born; this is where I grew up, and this is where I want my bones to lay. I shall not be deterred in my responsibility to say things.

I know that I am accused and they say that I am responsible. But that is politics to say that. The Constitution says who is responsible. And this House duly calls on them to come here and to speak to us and tell us. And this House duly calls for that Unit to be brought in here now.

I would not like to be in the Commissioner's shoes. I mean, I am the Premier and I am cussed every day. Everybody knows and hears. They say what they want to say on the radio. They say what they want to say anywhere. I certainly would not like to be in the Commissioner's shoes.

I must say, Madam Speaker, for those who talk about we need to get a different Commissioner, we have had three or four now. At least this one did do something to stop the very hardened murders that we were facing . . . at least some of it. We still have people missing. We don't know what that entails. We

don't know what happened there. We can say anything. But I certainly would not like to be in his shoes being responsible for law and order.

So, the basis for this Motion, is, as I have said, and I trust that both sides of this House—all honourable Members—will give their full support for the urgent action that is needed to clean up our Islands. At the end of the debate, I want the House to suspend. And I invite all Members to come to the committee room where we will meet the Governor and the Police Commissioner.

Madam Speaker, I have put His Excellency the Governor and the Commissioner of Police on notice that we will call them, and they have agreed to come. And I think the best place to discuss that is in the committee room.

Again, Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to understand what we are dealing with. I am sure they do. And if you want to criticise, fine. But let us be judicious in what we say.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]

Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, we are pleased that the Government has taken this step. As you are aware, just this morning I had a discussion with you about a similar motion which the Opposition was proposing to move.

Madam Speaker, following on from the debate on Wednesday, in which I raised on behalf of the Opposition the issue of the Government's handling of this situation of crime as one of the reasons for the lack of confidence motion, although I was chided, particularly by the Third Elected Member for Bodden Town, about saying that while we were in here discussing the constitutional niceties of why the Government should not take a more robust approach in the National Security Council, that more likely than not we were going to be facing another armed robbery that night; of course, it did occur. But, Madam Speaker, what really, truly made us decide to take some action this morning in this House—if the Government had not done what it has now just done—were the two car-jackings last night.

We ourselves are very concerned, but we are being overwhelmed by representations made to us by constituents about this very serious situation. So we are most happy to support this Motion. And I am gladened that the Premier has taken the step of asking His Excellency and the Commissioner of Police to come to talk to Members about what is being proposed to be done.

Madam Speaker, certainly from our side, none of us are trying to claim that serious crime is a new

thing. Something happened to these Islands following the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Ivan. I have always said that. Something caused the dogs of war to be let loose. And we have never quite got the genie back in the bottle. There was a wave of serious crime in the immediate aftermath of the Hurricane. That is the period when we went through a number of commissioners of police.

When Commissioner Kernohan came over that six-to-eight-month period that followed his in-statement, we seemed to get some level of control back on the situation. But we never did return to the pre-Ivan days. We never have.

In the last few years, we went through this period where there was gang warfare and gang murders. I know, even though a lot of persons were alarmed—most people were alarmed—the discussion was, *Well, at least they are killing off each other*. But I think that most of us who thought about these things knew that it was simply a matter of time before some innocents became victims of this.

But what we are seeing now . . . and whatever else might be said about the current Commissioner, as the Premier has said, we seem to have had a significant reduction in that kind of crime over the last, I would say, six to eight months. But what is now increasingly on the increase is this situation with armed robbery escalating now, it seems, to carjacking over the last evening. And while the Commissioner has said recently in my presence that overall crime is down, he actually cited statistics by district. That may well be true. I am not trying to say that is not the case. But what is certainly on the increase is serious crime, particularly in the form of armed robbery. That is the stuff that strikes fear into the heart of every person.

Virtually every day now the headlines scream about some new act of violence, some new incidence of armed robbery, some new shooting. We have to find a way to deal with this. And I am not, although there are many, many, who call for the heads of the Commissioner of Police, the Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and the whole range of them, I am not, Madam Speaker, an advocate of that. If we do find that anyone is not up to the standard that we need, then those in authority need to do what they need to do. But I have been around this long enough to have seen us go through four, maybe five, commissioners and acting commissioners. So, I am not convinced that swapping out one for another is necessarily the answer to whatever the issue is that is keeping us from effectively dealing with this new—not new, this escalating—wave of serious crime, particularly in the form of armed robbery.

What I believe, though, Madam Speaker, is that attitudes have got to change about what we need to do in terms of policing. And, Madam Speaker, they can sing the praises as long as they want about the British style of policing. But the recent incidents of those riots in London and the delay which, in my view,

caused much—all the way from over here, 6,000 miles away . . . what caused those riots to escalate was the delay in acting forcefully by the police in the first instance.

We have got to change our approach to this. And this business of saying, *Oh, we shouldn't allow ordinary citizens to have firearms or to have any form of implement which would allow them self-defence*, is complete and utter nonsense! Nonsense! And we have to break down that particular barrier to people's personal safety.

On the front page of today's paper is a story about a very successful business person, or business persons, two of them, really, who have fought to build up a chain of stores called "Reflections." They now have to have security guards wearing bullet proof vests. They had one of their security guards shot at while he was inside the store—shot at from outside! And there are questions about whether or not they should be allowed to arm their guards, not necessarily, as their owner says, with a firearm, but with some kind of means of defending themselves.

They had a 14-year-old shoplifter who they detained. The security guards did not even have handcuffs. So they had to surround the boy and one of them hold him for 15 minutes until the police arrived, because we don't even allow the security guards to carry handcuffs. We have got to change this attitude. Anyone who believes that Cayman is ever going to return to the serenity which all of us who are here grew up in and loved, I think is dreaming in colour, because it is unlikely to happen. We have got to take the measures we need [to take] to be able to ensure our personal safety and that of others, and we have got to send a clear message to the perpetrators that there are going to be consequences right up front!

Madam Speaker, there are other issues, major issues, about what happens between the time that the crime is committed and when the justice system completes the process. We have major issues there. We have major issues about how we investigate, how we gather evidence, how we prosecute. And, Madam Speaker, dare I say, there are real questions about the judicial process itself—

An Hon. Member: That's right.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr. Leader of the Opposition: —and the outcomes there. And that is the first time that anyone will have ever heard me say that anywhere—let alone on the Floor of this House—because most people know how I value the independence of the judiciary and the sanctity of that.

But those who are in charge of appointing judges need to take some careful looks at the quality of people that they are appointing to the bench and their ability to deal with these situations. Even if the police do everything that we hope and pray they can do, in terms of getting the perpetrators, investigating

properly, unless we are able to put away the right people, that is, those who perpetrate the crime (I am certainly not advocating that we put people in jail that are not guilty of the crime, not for a moment), the whole thing falls down, because then they are back out on the street and the crime escalates again.

We have got to take a long, hard look at this whole system, the whole justice system, the whole police system, because it is failing. There is no other way to put it. And if we need to call enquiries, then we need to call enquiries. But we have got to address this situation that is making life in these Islands much less in terms of quality than it once was—for those who visit here, for those who invest here, for those of us who live here. And that is not satisfactory!

Madam Speaker, if the Government thinks that I have been (and am still) too critical about the stance that they take, it is because of that great concern. I am glad that they are taking this course today. I do not believe that we, as legislators, whatever they believe the constitutional obstacles are, can sit quietly by and say, *Well, it's the Governor's responsibility, there's nothing we can do.* If that's the best we can offer, then all of us better just pack up our things and go home and make somebody else be in charge of that. I will not accept that we have that level of impotence.

Madam Speaker, the other issue, really, is intervention. We have to create an environment . . . and I am no police or security expert, so I am not saying that I necessarily know how to do that. But I do know that we have to create an environment where those who would perpetrate serious crime understand and believe that there is a real risk that they will be caught and that there are serious consequences which will flow from that. What is happening now is that they do not believe the risk of being caught is terribly high. And even if they do get caught, they believe that they will be back out on the road very shortly.

An Hon. Member: That's right!

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin Jr., Leader of the Opposition: So, where is the great deterrent? Nobody is armed! So, unless you are really unfortunate and go into the home of a licensed firearm owner who has the wherewithal to decide that he is not going to take this kind of an invasion and brings to an end—quickly—your days on earth, most of the perpetrators just do this with an impunity which says, *What's going to happen to me? What is going to happen to me?* We have got to change the environment; we have to change the expectations for those who would perpetrate serious crime.

Madam Speaker, we all know that times are hard economically, and that there are more people unemployed than once was the case. But I will not accept that as a basis, or a justification, for people doing this sort of thing.

I hear it all the time. Madam Speaker, I have saved . . . there was one individual in particular who has asked for financial assistance from me . . . well, this is not news to any Member of this House. He has asked for assistance from me (and I am sure I am not the only one) as his Representative. And I have helped. But it reached the point when, because I did not respond to a text message instantly, I got this threat about, "I've been in jail before and I will go to jail again. If you don't help me, I'm going to go rob."

I won't tell you some of the names I was called in that text message—which I have preserved. But I told the individual, "Don't you ever call or text me again, because the next time I am going to the police."

But there are those with that kind of attitude: *I've been to jail before; I'll go there again. If you don't help me, I'm going to rob.*

Madam Speaker, one of the problems that I have, and I know other Members of this House have who have been here for a while . . . We have Finance Committee. Representatives of the police come down—the Commissioner or the Acting Commissioner, or a Deputy or someone. There is usually more than one. And when Finance Committee inquires as to, *Do you have adequate resources?* I don't know that I have ever heard that they do not in the eleven years I have been here. Now, I do not know whether that is out of concern that they might offend whoever is the Government, because this is not just so in relation to this Administration. I have been here through four administrations. It's the same.

We need to be told honestly what it is that the police lack. And that is not to say that we can necessarily give them everything that they claim and hope that they want. But at least we would be in a better position to assess what it is, and prioritise what the money is. My quick look at the last three years, yes, in the 2009/10 year there was about a \$5 million reduction in the money allocated to policing. I think it went down from thirty-one point something million dollars to twenty-six point something million dollars. But it came back up to \$29 [million] in the Budget before last. And this Budget, I think it is almost bang on what it was back pre-2009.

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: I am not saying that is enough. I don't know unless someone from the police tells me whether or not it is enough.

But, Madam Speaker, of this I am certain. And I know there will be some who are unhappy with this and offended by this. And I have many friends within the police service. But, quite frankly, given the challenges that we are facing now, I do not believe that we have the level of expertise and human resources that we need to deal with addressing serious crime in this way.

[desk thumping]

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: I understand, and I have heard, that there is real resistance on the part of the police administration to us importing the kind of expert human resources we need to deal with this.

I say, regardless of how you feel about that being a reflection on the Force or your leadership, or whatever it is, we have to put those concerns and reservations to one side, because we have a national crisis of immense proportions; a crisis which is likely to trigger all sorts of other problems, including more economic problems because of the way the visitors and the tourists and investors are starting to feel about what was once Cayman's probably greatest attraction from their standpoint—which was safety.

I mean, one of the those little thrills I always got—don't ask me why; it's just one of those personal things—was driving along West Bay Road, particularly during the winter months and seeing the huge numbers of visitors walking along the sidewalk there hand-in-hand, girlfriend and boyfriend, husband and wife going to dinner or coming from dinner. And I would always say to myself, *Wow!* Because like most of us here, I have been to many places in the world and you don't see that kind of thing—people not worried one second about anyone holding them up and taking anything away.

But that is where we are now. Robbers are holding up restaurants like “Casanova by the Sea”, while there are still diners there—not waiting until the evening is over, and saying, *Whatever the take is tonight, we're going to get that.* That's where we are at! This calls for a drastic, radical change in the way that we approach these issues. I am not suggesting for one minute, Madam Speaker, that that is easy to do. But whatever has to be done must be done, because we cannot accept this. It is destroying us in every possible, conceivable way.

Today this House—as divided as most people think we are—is taking a concerted unified action in relation to this. And, Madam Speaker, if the lack of confidence motion served no other purpose than this, thank God; I feel vindicated.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Leader of the Opposition.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

Member for North Side.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller, Elected Member for North Side: Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my full, unconditional support to the Motion moved by the Premier. I would have preferred to have had the Governor and the Chief of Police sitting inside here now so that they could hear what we are going to say.

The other thing I disagree with is to carry them in that room and lock them up in secrecy and then somebody might be able to say, *Well, you didn't ask for this and you didn't ask for that.* I would encourage the Premier to let us . . . I'm not sure exactly how it can be done under Standing Orders, but I think we should bring them in here and record in the *Hansards* what we ask them and what their replies are. We are not asking for operational matters, because, Madam Speaker, too often the opinions, the requests of legislators, in particular about crime in this country, are just ignored.

I agree with the Leader of the Opposition. They come down here at Budget time during Finance Committee. We try to ask questions and either they don't answer or they give you some explanation, or simply say, *We have the resources*, so you won't ask any more questions. We are not concerning ourselves with their operational procedure. But we want them to understand that the policy is changing.

The other amendment . . . because, Madam Speaker, I have been here too many times. And I agree with the Leader of the Opposition. I am talking now from 1984 to 1992, particularly, for districts like North Side and East End. Every time they believe they need some new resources they come down here to Finance Committee and they tell us that they are doing this for North Side, East End, and Bodden Town. You give them another 20 per cent, 30 per cent increase, and when you meet with them regularly, as I do—I try to meet with them every two weeks in my constituency, the police command for the eastern districts—we are constantly told, *Yes, we have those extra couple of millions, but we still don't have anything for North Side, and East End and Bodden Town, because you people really don't have the kind of crime that exists in George Town and West Bay.* Madam Speaker, that is the whole point: We want to stay how we are!

Madam Speaker, during the review in the committee room (and unfortunately I was absent for the debate on the Police Law) I asked for a definition of “Police Service.” And, Madam Speaker, nobody could define it adequately. Now, I know what a Police Force is; it's there to enforce the law. And I am particularly pleased to see that the Premier has used the language in the resolve section that such unit be a “force” not a “service.” We are tired of being a service, Ma'am.

An Hon. Member: Absolutely!

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: The Minister of Community and Works provides me with a social worker in my district.

When I grew up and police officers who knew the community, who knew my parents . . . and, Madam Speaker, if somebody said Mr. Radley or Mr. Anderson was coming, even if we were here in George Town (as school children for lunch) we stopped what

we were doing, just in case we were doing something wrong! We didn't have to be doing anything wrong, because Mr. Forbes would catch us out by Daisy Dairy, grab us by the arm, pick us off the ground and say, "Who ya fah?"

[Laughter]

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: What he meant by that, for those who don't know, is "Who are your parents?"

Because, we weren't supposed to be out there (we should have been in class), and if he brought us physically back to the high school and told the teacher he found us out by Daisy Dairy . . . most of the times we were just trying to get a little early lunch or a hamburger to beat the crowd—*right*? And, he'd call our parents that evening [or] if he had to, go to their house to tell them. And you understood that the police were there to enforce the law. I do not know what a police "service" does. I'm sorry. And I agree with the Leader of the Opposition, the culture has to change.

The other amendment I would like to see is on (a) "**To provide strongly enhanced detection investigative and enforcement techniques . . .**" I would like to add, Mr. Premier, to include "non-lethal Tasers for all police officers.

Madam Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier are correct. If you are going to rob a place, even if you only have a toy gun, but you know the only thing a police car is coming with is a cell phone (which he can't even pelt at you because he can't afford to throw it away, since it's a Blackberry these days—and it's likely to be a touch screen, *right*) and a nine inch baton . . . but if you knew that the police car was armed, and the policeman could stay 100 yards away and take out your two knees, you would think twice about going in there with some toy gun and robbing somebody.

But as the Leader of the Opposition said, and the Premier, there do not appear to be any consequences. And it is time to put a stop to it.

So, Madam Speaker, I would like, as I said, to resolve into Committee (if that's the way we can do it) and have it recorded for posterity that on this day the Members of this Legislative Assembly decided enough is enough! And we want action, not service.

Madam Speaker, because we can carry them in that committee room they are going to evade the questions, they are going to tell us that they need this and they need that, and when they come out on the street we are not going to be able to prove that we asked them anything. But if we do it here and it's recorded in those tapes up there, then, Madam Speaker, they know that we have them.

So, Madam Speaker, "Be it Resolved to immediately recruit" . . . Madam Speaker, from my point of view now, "immediately" does not extend until sometime between now and Christmas. "Immediately"

would mean to me, tomorrow or, at the latest, we know they are out there by Sunday!

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: And the other reason this needs to be broadcast is so that not only the people will know that we are doing our job, but, yes, the criminal element will know that we are not going to tolerate it any more—*right*? But I will caution Members: Too many of these things are done in secret and the stories that come out are not always in our favour.

Even the great Mother Country has had to admit after the recent riots in London that their system is not working. They turned to the US gang expert to come and advise them.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: So, if it is not working up there, it's not likely to work down ya!

So, Madam Speaker, with those few words, I reserve the rest of my questions until they come, and I would really encourage Members to resolve into Committee. Call them to the bar in this Legislative Assembly. Swear them under oath, if we have to. And, Madam Speaker, because it's time to act, we are prepared to act. We must ensure that when they leave here they understand that we expect them to act and also that it is recorded what we asked them to act about.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Member for North Side.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

Mr. Anthony S. Eden, Second Elected Member for Bodden Town: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government for bringing this very important Motion here today. Ironically, just this morning when I was sitting with the Attorney General and some of my other colleagues in the dining room, the Fourth Elected Member for George Town and a couple of other ones, we were talking about what was happening. I said within myself that I was going to go and talk with the Honourable Premier. But little did I know that he had already observed and had put en-train what needed to be done to send a message to these people.

Madam Speaker, I have been around for a while. I will take us all back to when the [downward] spiral started—and there is nothing we can do about it, sadly, unfortunately, because of the wonderful words "Human Rights"—when these Islands had on our books, Capital Punishment. I can say without fear of successful contradiction that from the time the Cayman Islands were forced under an Order in Coun-

cil that we no longer have Capital Punishment, we were on a downward spiral of crime, after crime, after crime.

I know, as I sat on a Cabinet with the now Premier, we would have to put up fights with different bureaucracies. And in the time that I was there a number of Chiefs of Police seemed to be changed, like you have to do with underwear.

Madam Speaker, I felt a bit optimistic a few days ago when we had a visit from the people from Jamaica. I think they have an idea of how we can deal with some of these difficult problems we are going through. I am not here criticizing individuals, Madam Speaker, but we must understand that this style of dealing with crime in the Cayman Islands is not working. You cannot continue to do the same thing over and over again and expect a different result; a result that we see is not working.

We need to understand and know that these people we are dealing with are not Sunday School children! I have been made to understand that some of these youngsters have said, "I will shoot you and go to Northward Prison." And once again, there appears to be no deterrent.

This is a momentous day here in this Legislative Assembly. We have decided enough is enough!

[Desk pounding]

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: Wednesday morning at about 1.30 am, when we were in here, maybe something to 2.00 am, just before I got up to debate the Motion—

An Hon. Member: Thursday.

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: Thursday morning, yes. At my age I start to get a loss of time!

[Laughter]

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: I heard the helicopter going around and around. When I got home early that morning, I got the information that right behind us, Madam Speaker, gun shots were being fired.

Enough is enough, Madam Speaker. And whatever feelings we may hurt, so be it!

I am pleased to join with the Government on this. We must send a message at the highest levels. I served under a couple of Heads of State, and I observe my friend across the room, the Honourable Attorney General. He knows my feelings on these things. We have to stop pussyfooting. You have criminals; deal with them and deal with them once and for all!

[Applause and desk thumping]

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: You see, about a decade ago we talked about . . . and I heard it mentioned on the

radio a few mornings ago, Madam Speaker. And it is usually in the United States. "Three strikes and you're out."

People wonder about what is going to happen then with the population at Northward. Without a doubt, Madam Speaker, it will skyrocket for a while. But when that message goes out that we are no longer tolerating people coming here, sentencing them, slapping their wrists, they go out for a weekend or so, and come back and go again . . . We have to break that cycle.

[inaudible interjection]

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: That's another tragedy; legal aid.

Madam Speaker, probably there are none of us in this Chamber who have witnessed probably more than you have, that cycle with our youngsters. What has happened? And we can blame, and we can bring in all the police forces in the world from wherever, but until our Cayman Islands gets back to parental responsibility and assisting other families that may also need . . . what we are doing, Madam Speaker, is not going to make a difference. We need to put that responsibility on parents that when these juveniles go to court they should be there finding out what's going on. Put the responsibility and the accountability on them.

There are far too many one-parent family homes. I feel so sorry, especially for the young women day in and day out. Just after 6.00 this morning, Madam Speaker, I had people visiting my house. People are hurting. And they are afraid. They are scared of what the criminal element is doing in these Islands.

What our police need to understand are the little small things. These tinted cars. And I have no problem with the Premier having his tinted; not at all. But all over the place you see them. How do they get them passed within the force?

Sometimes you hear this boom box cross you on the street and you wonder, *what in the world is this?* It is against the law. There is a certain decibel, and they need to be registered. It doesn't seem like anybody is doing that.

I know up in that street in Lower Valley sometimes in the evening, they must be doing 100 Mph. It's the little things that, if ignored for too long, they continue to grow like a cancer. They get away with this, then they step it up to something else, and they get away with that. Then they get their gun. Because our poor police, what are they going to do?

I continue to wonder, Madam Speaker, especially in some of these institutions, some of the banks that are supposed to have CCTV. I think it was two or three times in a row that the CCTV was not working. I am afraid to use the word "conspiracy," but folks, Madam Speaker; colleagues, we need to do a com-

plete investigation of what's going on. And it has to be done in harmony with the police, the prosecution, the judiciary. Because, by God, what has happened here in the last few months—and it's not for me to say why and who and what the mistakes were—but let's face it, there are at least three murderers walking about in our Islands. What are we going to do about it? What are we going to do about it?

I have children, grandchildren. And I can let the police know that if I am invaded . . . Betsy don't mind losing a few children.

[Laughter]

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: And as a legislator I should not be saying that. But we have to send the message. We have to send the message, Madam Speaker.

As I talked to my colleague, the Minister of Health, and my colleague from Bodden Town, about what's happening in our district . . . it used to be so nice and peaceful. It seems like we're being invaded! We need to help our colleagues in West Bay, George Town, North Side, East End and Cayman Brac. We must send a message that enough is enough! We are going to stop it! And we can only stop it by all of us as legislators working together.

And, no, we don't want to get into the operational functions of the police, Madam Speaker. But it is my belief that we must establish, if necessary, a policy and say, *If you don't know what to do, this is what we are going to tell you to do.* And if it doesn't work then try something else. But we have to bring in some people from the States. This thing about not calling names, not putting people's pictures . . . there's a word they use in the States "Alleged." And if he's not guilty, well, so be it; but if he's guilty the public will know. Just be careful.

Madam Speaker, I could go on and on. I was pleased . . . five or six of us, my colleague from North Side and the Leader of the Opposition met with the eastern district business people. They are scared, scared, scared. And they want us to do something, and I know that there are plans underway to try to assist. And they are willing to do whatever is necessary. But they need the support. They need a message to be sent out that you cannot continue to break into people's places. They have slaved most of their lives to get something and someone comes and steals it, goes to Northward for a few weeks and they are back out again.

But I will end this, Madam Speaker, by pleading with families, with parents, especially the fathers who seemingly have abnegated their responsibility to raise their children. Any man can make a child. But when they leave those mothers on their own, having to put in ungodly hours, go home and help the children with their homework, and the father is out joy riding, drinking, carousing, whatever . . . until we get back to those days . . . and as my colleague said, it

will never happen. And I am not that naïve to think that it will. But I implore us; let us think about those children. It is going to happen.

I am made to understand that six-, seven-, eight-year-old children are out on the road at night. What are the parents doing? And I know it was an individual who talked about poverty. Yes, there is much poverty in certain places. But I always remember my parents, Madam Speaker. That is why I still don't like cornmeal today! I was raised on cornmeal boiled on top of a kerosene lamp. But that did not stop them from disciplining me and my family. If I cried, I got beat for crying!

We need to get back to raising our children. And the powers that be, stop interfering with some of these families that the children . . . and I am not talking about brutality, or anything like that, Madam Speaker—but proper discipline for our children. It's a long, long way to go. But it is—

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Put the strap back into the schools.

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: Absolutely! Discipline back in the school.

We can't expect the teachers that have these children about six or seven hours a day to change those children. Are we seeing the trash they are watching on television and on the Internet? And we wonder what's happening. And those games that people are becoming multimillionaires over. Are we watching what they are about? [They are] talking about killing police and this and that. What in the world do we expect when they are being overwhelmed with so much?

May God help our Islands.

The Speaker: Thank you, Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

Third Elected Member for West Bay.

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr., Third Elected Member for West Bay: Madam Speaker, thank you so much for allowing me to make a short contribution to the Government Motion.

Madam Speaker, I am happy today to be a part of the Government, and part of this Legislative Assembly that has taken a stand and determined that enough is enough. As a Member who has been here going on some 11 years, I know we have agreed on many issues of national importance as a Legislative Assembly, but it was real heartening today to see us all standing in unison to support such an issue of national concern.

It was mentioned a bit earlier, Madam Speaker, that while we were in here a few mornings ago until 3.00 am, that during that debate . . . of course, sadly none of us were surprised to hear that during the

time sitting in here there were criminal elements out there again holding the town to terror, and holding the country hostage. There were questions and concerns as to when we were in here debating a motion that we knew had no chance of passing, instead of using that time more usefully.

I can say, Madam Speaker, that I contemplated using the Standing Orders to call for the adjournment of that motion. I think it was acknowledged from the time the mover first [moved] the motion that there was no chance of success. It was basically just an opportunity to talk. And we talked for a long, long, long time, until 3.00 am, because, as some people have mentioned, this is a “talk shop.” But I knew if I had dared to do that, we would have had the press and everyone else talking about abridging Members’ rights and minority rights, and so we had to go through that process and we talked about it. And while we were talking, the criminals were out there playing and shooting and people were being terrorised. But now, thankfully, we have gotten past that stage and we are at the stage now where we have said we need to do something.

And, Madam Speaker, before I am guilty of doing the same thing—standing here and talking—again, just because we feel the need for everyone to show that they are fed up and they are doing their job, even though we know that what we are proposing is that after we finish this debate we are going to actually going to get some action. But the longer we stand and talk the longer it takes for us to get to that point.

So, as other Members have done so far (trying to keep their contributions short), I will try my hardest as well, Madam Speaker. But as I was sitting here doing some research, my good friend, the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town, who, I always say, can sit there quietly, but nothing gets him riled up and passionate as when it comes to Cayman and specifically to crime. I know his position is very consistent in regard to the Capital Punishment issue. He has never wavered on that issue.

I looked up some of the debates in the Caribbean that are going on. And, with your permission, I would like to quote from the *Economist*, dated February 10, 2011. It talks about “[In the shadow of the gal-lows](#).” It says, “Trinidad debates the death penalty.”

It starts off by saying: “**‘We need the death penalty...that is the word of God,’ said Benjamin Agard, a Pentecostal pastor, in his funeral sermon last month for Cecil Carrington, a retired police officer shot dead by bandits at the small hotel he owned on Trinidad’s windswept east coast. The funeral came a fortnight after Trinidad and Tobago’s prime minister, Kamla Persad-Bissessar, promised to remove legal obstacles to hanging, offering a parliamentary debate on February 18th.**

Madam Speaker, the part that I thought was very relevant: “**Her stance is popular across the English-speaking Caribbean, where murder rates**

have soared since the 1990s. Her country suffered 472 killings last year—close to 5% of all deaths. In 1999 there were just 93. Almost everyone can name a friend or relative who has met a violent end. Last year’s murder rate, of 36 per 100,000 people, was seven times that in the United States and 30 times that of Britain. But it trailed Jamaica (53), Belize (42) and tiny St Kitts-Nevis (40).”

Now, Madam Speaker, the relevance of all of that is, as my friend the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town [stated], that unless something is done, pretty soon we will be looking back . . . well, even now as it is, we are looking back saying it’s not the Cayman of old; Cayman has changed. And we need to do something about it.

They went through that same process of saying these are the restrictions. I think it was the Member from North Side who said that obviously what we are doing is not working. As long as we continue doing that it keeps getting worse, until we get to the stage where out of desperation we have the Government now considering Capital Punishment. And, Madam Speaker, as Elected Representatives of the public we all get the . . . even from within my own household, I can say. Especially the women in the household who are scared to stop . . . Some of my colleagues, we were talking through it, and it got to the point where we were scared to go to the ATM machine, and scared to stop at the gas station.

So, it has gotten to the point where we definitely need to call the powers that be in, and we need to ensure that there is a plan to address the situation.

Picking up on the point by the Member for North Side, on having the meeting recorded, doing it in camera, however we are going to do it, we understand there is some sensitivity involved. But, Madam Speaker, as a Member of the Government, we have discussed this issue and the Premier has come back to us on many occasions saying that Cabinet has called for similar actions and yet, nothing seems to be done. So, to ensure that something is different we need to make sure that this is done, whether it is going to be different because 15 Members stand together and make demands now, however it needs to be done, we need to ensure that it is not just, again, forgotten about once we leave here.

I agree, from a timeline standpoint that we need some strict timelines. We want answers, we want a plan, and we want to ensure that the people who are conducting it are conducting it in a way that will actually make a difference.

Madam Speaker, I know a lot of my colleagues will feel the need to make a contribution. So in keeping in line I just wanted to use this opportunity to say that I look forward to, as quickly as possible, getting in and meeting with the powers that be to ensure that things do not continue in the very sad state of affairs that we have now.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you Third Elected Member for West Bay.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

Fourth Elected Member for George Town, you heard your instructions.

[Laughter]

Mr. Ellio A. Solomon, Fourth Elected Member for George Town: Madam Speaker, you know, I will say about my colleague's instructions what I said this morning. I think he can attempt to influence. But, ultimately, in that case somebody has to make a decision. And in this particular case, Madam Speaker, I will make the decision that I won't speak too long. I promise.

Madam Speaker, let me first of all say that I am honoured today to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly. I am honoured to be a Member of this Government that has brought forward such an important motion. If my colleagues are so inclined, they can tell you that I am a firm believer that often times there is just too much discussion that takes place behind closed doors. And it's not necessarily deliberate. It's not like anyone is trying to hide something; it just happens that that is the way it is.

In the boardrooms across this country, in financial institutions or in any other company, there are discussions that take place in a room somewhere that the public does not have access to. The same thing exists when it comes to many of the meetings that the Government has. But there is a significant difference in the sense that when the Government has a lot of these meetings in private the general public does not have an opportunity to see what is truly taking place behind the scenes.

I have had persons come to me, individuals that I represent . . . and that has to be anywhere between Cayman to Little Cayman to Cayman Brac—any one of those. We represent them all. And some of them will say, *The Government is not doing anything about this. Or, The Government is not doing anything about that.* And, Madam Speaker, how I wish that we could give them a front row seat to the discussions that we have in private, the discussions and the phone calls that we have had with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the discussions with the Commissioner of Police in respect to the same thing that we are bringing in this Motion today.

I remember from the time we were elected in 2009, we said a similar thing to the Commissioner of Police. We want a squad. We talked about the force, but, Madam Speaker, it is a private conversation, as is the standard and the norm. Therefore, the masses, the general public, do not get to see and they do not get to hear it. Therefore, to many, unfortunately, if they don't see it, if they don't hear it, it is not occurring.

So, Madam Speaker, I think to bring this Motion now to the Floor of the House and to be able to do it in a public way is part of an action plan and a healing process, an informing and educating process. I encourage this Government, and all of those in the future, that as much as possible transparency is required.

Madam Speaker, I believe that all Members of the Legislative Assembly who have spoken so far have made valuable contributions. I am pretty sure those to follow will do the same. And not to put any one above the other, but I would like to commend the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town for some of the comments he made, because when we talk about the issue of crime . . . and I do not want anyone to misunderstand me. I am not in any way at all attempting to remove the Governor or the Commissioner of Police. But I say . . . and I am not talking about removing them from office; removing them in terms of the authority and their responsibility. But I liked the comments that the Member made, Madam Speaker, because if we are going to talk about crime, we need to talk about it in the comprehensive nature to which it deserves. It goes beyond the gallows. And it goes beyond the Commissioner of Police or any officer who is making an arrest. When it reaches that stage, Madam Speaker, the sad, sick reality of it is that the damage has already been done.

Madam Speaker, I love to look at the ultimate authority, as far as I am concerned, and that is the Holy Word. The good Word of God. And it gives in there a parable about where the seeds drop, whether they drop on fertile soil, on the stones or otherwise. And I say that, Madam Speaker, because if you have a seed that takes root and it grows, it's because somewhere or another there is fertility in the soil in which it grows. It doesn't grow in stone, Madam Speaker. And, therefore, we have to recognise as a country if we are having criminal elements growing in the country, something is offering some fertility to allow that growth. And, therefore, it requires a comprehensive approach.

Madam Speaker, when we look at that, and again, I do not think for one moment that I could stand here and give that comprehensiveness in its entirety, but just to touch on it and, in some instances, echo it. When we have a situation . . . and it starts from the little child. We heard it when we went to school. They said if you followed the troubled child home and knocked on the door, chances are there is trouble in the home.

Madam Speaker, when you have to sit here as a Representative and know that today we are living in a society where we have a single parent in a house with four or five children and just a television alone, what they have to witness in terms of fights, quarrels, and some things not worthy to mention on this microphone . . . and we wonder how we can have problems.

This is why, Madam Speaker, I stand here. And irrespective of the fact, if it does not dawn on someone, I am passionate [about] doing something about housing, for example. Because when we do not have those issues resolved we are subjecting our children, I dare say, to a soil that is fertile to bring about serious, serious problems.

There is another thing, Madam Speaker, a wave that is over our society. I say that this particular disease is as contagious as any other disease. It is airborne. That's how bad it is. It does not even require physical contact; it is airborne. Madam Speaker, that is this wave and disease of negativity. The Good Word also tells you, in terms of the structure of the home, the mother and father must have respect for one another. And they must show that respect for one another. And the children look on and, as a result of that, they themselves have respect for their parents and they themselves have respect for one another.

Madam Speaker, I hear it almost every day now. It has become fashionable on the talk shows. In all of the difficult economic challenges that we have, I hear comments, *Well, look at the politicians and how much they make. We're not making all of that.* What does that do, Madam Speaker? What does that do to anyone who is in a less-than-unfortunate position? It breeds animosity. It breeds hate. It breeds division.

So, Madam Speaker, it is a situation where we need to stop all of that. That negativity has to stop. Just today I was standing there in defence, not of any one individual, but in respect of the Office of the Speaker of the House. Because, Madam Speaker, we have an obligation to keep that position in high esteem. And that is perhaps part and parcel of why even the Word of God says that love covers a multitude of sins. Madam Speaker, we [have] serious challenges in this country.

The Member talked about the fact that we have single parents, whether it's the male or the female, because there is a combination of both. It's not just one or another, where one is running free and the other one is trying to look after the children. These are challenges that we have to face. But I dare say, Madam Speaker, that if our children are supposed to turn on the radio in the mornings and all they can hear is the firing in on this one, and the disrespect for that office, and the disrespect for this one, and the long list goes on, that that in itself is fertile soil for something. And it cannot be positive. You cannot get good fruit from a poison tree. And the arrow wasn't fired with good intentions and it does not land with good intention.

That is why even in a court of law they do not only look at your act (as it is called *actus reus*), or the guilty act, they also look at the *mens rea*. What was your intention? If the man picks the gun up, holds it to someone, shoots and no bullet comes out, but his intention was to kill, it is just as much as if he had killed the person, because that was his intention.

Madam Speaker, there are sayings that are wrong. I have one that I want to be, if not at the top, at one of the top areas of the list. And that is, "Sticks and stones may break my bones; but words will never hurt me." Madam Speaker, I disagree with that. I believe that there are more words that have killed people. You hear that the pen is mightier than the sword. I agree with that one. There are more words killing people every day, killing people more every day, Madam Speaker, than perhaps anything else.

I believe, again, the same fundamental reason is part and parcel perhaps [for] the reason why the good Word of God says that He hates those who sow discord amongst their brothers. Hates them! That tongue, that little instrument we have perhaps arguably that we can see four or five inches, kills men more than six feet tall. Again, I will give you another good Scripture to support that. It says, "**Death and life are in the power of the tongue.**" And that is why it is for those who write words, those who speak them, irrespective of where they are, to understand the authority, the capacity, the power that they have and to, therefore, use it responsibly because death and life are in the power of the tongue.

You take the young child and tell him every day that he is a fool. And tell me what the young man is going to grow up to be. What we say to that young child every day is going to make a big dent in what he or she is going to become. And if we can accept that we can sit and water that child with positivity and say, *Young man, you are a Caymanian. You should be proud. You have a wonderful country. Even right now in the desperate situation of the economy, you have so much to be proud about. You can be anything that you want to be. You can leave the poorest of neighbourhoods and make something of yourself.* That is showering our children with positive attitude. Unfortunately, we have too many instruments that seek not to do that, Madam Speaker, but [seek] to shroud them, shadow them with nothing but negativity. So, Madam Speaker, whatever challenges we have today I dare say we do not put sensation to that. The circumstances will only get worse.

Madam Speaker, I remember my mother telling me a story that was supposed to have happened somewhere in Honduras. Again, Madam Speaker, I don't think that that really matters. I also heard that the story was told by other persons. It was a situation where a young man was about to face the gallows. He was about to be hung. And they asked him if he had one request. He said he wanted to speak to his mother. And, they brought his mother in. And his mother walked toward her son and when she got next to him he leaned and whispered in her ear. He said, "Mom, you did this to me," and he bit her ear off.

Madam Speaker, he said that because he said, "When I brought home the little buttons that were shiny, you didn't do anything about it. You protected me. When I brought home the box of matches, you

didn't do anything about it." And it was a continuous conveyor belt, a process that led to the young man facing the gallows.

I say that, Madam Speaker, not to remove anyone, but to make sure that you and I here in this Assembly and everyone within the sound of our voices, everyone in this country, has a responsibility as well. And we have to deal with it. We cannot shirk it. Let us not ignore for a second the importance of our words.

The issue was raised, for example, Madam Speaker, about human rights. Madam Speaker, there has been without a doubt a conveyor belt that we have been coming on, and it is being amplified daily and they have been working towards a direction, one that I believe all of us have reached today in 2011 that is not a positive one. But, Madam Speaker, I can also tell you that I was on the radio when I believe something else other than Hurricane Ivan changed.

I remember when we heard about Estella Scott and her circumstances. And, Madam Speaker, I don't know, that's almost intuitive; nothing evidential. But I believe this country . . . and to capture that country as large as it can, the world changed that day for a lot of us. So, when the Member talks about video games . . . Madam Speaker, do you know what you have? You even have video games where you are running in and shooting people. The gun . . . it vibrates, you can feel the power of the instrument that you are supposedly firing. Not only seeing the blood, not only seeing people die, you feel the power of the mechanism that you are holding in your hand.

So, years ago when a car crashed, it was big, big talk. I remember going to the window and hearing that there was an ambulance and someone had died. Someone got knocked down by Holiday Inn. That rippled through this entire country for weeks. And the more car accidents you have, the more desensitised you become to the issue to where you [say], *Just another accident*. And it's the same thing, Madam Speaker, in respect to, *Just another crime; just another robbery; just another shooting*.

But I ask you, in terms of a game like that, what are you training for? What are you practicing for? What are you desensitising for?

It was a proven fact that the US Army was training people on target practice, big rings, the typical rings in a target practice. And there were expert shooters. And when they went to war, many of them did not have the courage to fire the bullet. And America stated, *We have to change that. The practice has to change*. So, they got real looking persons to fire on. Why? Because the target practice was different when it came to war. The persons who were expert marksmen at the target refused to fire at the human target. So they changed it to look like a human target because they had become desensitised after years of firing on what appeared to be a human target.

So, if that is what the US Army (and I am sure other armies) does, Madam Speaker, in terms of desensitisation to make sure that when called upon you can fire, I ask us to consider what that game does.

To the Member's point, when I have to watch . . . and they said it. Perhaps the average American family only spends 14 minutes a day of quality time with their children. And we are always lacking statistics here, so let's convey that, at least for ease of use. And when you have television babysitting children, Madam Speaker, for hours and hours, and what they are watching is crime being committed every day, as the Member talked about earlier on, shooting of police and everything else. At the minimum, Madam Speaker, we are desensitising our society to these horrific crimes. I dare say that we are creating a fertile soil for something very, very serious.

Madam Speaker, when I was doing the clean up, I came in contact with a lot of persons. I remember we had just gone through the process of actually selecting individuals and there was this one person who had served seven years in prison. And he started getting upset, cursing. Madam Speaker, I did whatever I could at that point in time to put him in employ because as bad as he was going on, he was doing so because he wanted to get work.

He wasn't cursing me, Madam Speaker, and saying I had to give him \$25; he was asking for the opportunity to work. And why do I highlight that, Madam Speaker? Because even for the swinging door of Northward Prison, we have to ensure that our laws, our legislation, allows someone to come out and reintegrate themselves into society. Give them a chance for employment. Give them some rehabilitation with respect to coming in and reintegrating themselves.

Right now, off the top of my head, I think there was a presentation to the caucus in terms of an individual, a successful businessman in the country that at some point in time had served a prison sentence. Madam Speaker, it almost seemed as if the forces that be do everything they can to deny the individual an opportunity to continue along that line. And, Madam Speaker, don't misunderstand me for a second. I am not encouraging anyone about crime; because I have seen people live, as one of the Members I think alluded to cornmeal . . . I have seen people live in abject poverty, sweeping mud floors. And yet, they do not commit a crime, because it is about their moral principles and how well they are anchored there.

There are those who would rather beg or borrow, but they are not stealing. But I am saying that that says, again in the whole comprehensive nature of things, that we have to ensure that persons have an opportunity at the same time to reintegrate themselves into society.

Madam Speaker, along that line, I also bring up the issue about the church. The Member touched on that, and I echo that as well. That institution . . . as I have stated on the radio, when a young child is car-

ried to church, or if even sent there, and he or she has a chance of one year, one day and hopefully 5, 10, 15, 20 years, of having good things inculcated into them such as "love your neighbour as yourself"; "do unto others as you would have others do unto you"; and the longest (as simple as those words are) inculcation, Madam Speaker, says, "thou shall not covet"; "don't envy"; "don't hate"; "don't kill." It makes a big difference.

Because when there is no mom, and when there is no dad, and when there is no friend, no uncle, no family members, and when there are no police, there is something buried in that person inexplicitly that prevents them from doing something evil. That is why the Bible says to raise that child in the way that it should go, and when it gets older it shall not depart from it. Because that is the ultimate watchdog. That is what it is. It does not leave you.

I encourage persons, again, when the Premier, the Government, talks about the Nation Building Fund and trying to support the churches, trying to encourage those programmes, it is for that reason. It has my 110, 1,000 per cent support. We need those institutions. We need those institutions more today than we have ever needed them.

So, Madam Speaker, I am not going to drag it on. I promised to be short, so I will wrap up there. But, Madam Speaker, just very much with respect to the conclusion, I want to say in terms of what I see today in this Parliament with the unity, I think that needs to continue. I have stated to the Leader of the Opposition that clearly there has to be those issues that as groups, members, individuals or parties, we can put on the table as truth and say, *We are not going to fight over these issues. We are not going to make these political footballs.* And I believe the issue of policing and crime clearly has to be one. Has to be, Madam Speaker!

I also want to encourage now, based on this solidarity, the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition . . . I know that there is a provision in there that allows the Leader of the Opposition in our Constitution, and the Leader of Government, the Premier, to be able to come together and make some changes to our Constitution. Arguably they say if it is agreed upon between the two of them, they say if it is not trivial . . . and, Madam Speaker, if it is whatever . . . they talked about committee earlier on and solutions. I call on the two of them now to come and let us look if there is a modification that even has to be made towards our Constitution that gives us some more control insofar as saying we need to be able to make sure that the instruments, whether it is National Security Council or otherwise, that mechanisms are required in terms of allowing us to deal effectively with the issue of crime.

Madam Speaker, there may even be those who say that somebody else from outside is always knowing better, doing better. But I believe that our Caymanian people have proven it. We have come as

a country from a small island infested with mosquitoes that no one wanted to inhabit, and today we have taken it as a people to the fifth largest financial industry in the world [with] a vibrant buoyant economy. Madam Speaker, I say that because I have confidence in our people, not just when it comes to a hurricane and all of a sudden you can designate Caymanians to be in charge. At all times, Madam Speaker, let us preach something positive and have confidence in our people.

I am a sincere believer that the day that all of us as elected officials can have confidence in our people and they in turn, can have confidence in us, we [will be in] a position to deal effectively with a myriad of different issues, including the issue about crime.

So, on the issue there, Madam Speaker, with respect to our Constitution, I want to encourage the Leader of the Opposition to join hands with the Government, to join hands with the Premier and even if it requires any sort of constitutional . . . and I am not going to highlight to say that I know what that is, Madam Speaker. But let us put on the table those areas of truce and let us see if we can sit, at least now that we have agreement on this issue with crime, and if there is a modification that has to be made to any legislation, any policy, and that is inclusive of the Constitution, then let us do it today.

I call on the Governor to take on board his full authority and responsibility to deal with crime. Spend every waking hour dealing with it. I also do the same with the police. But I am also calling on all of us to do our share as legislators and as good citizens of this country. With that, Madam Speaker, I don't want to lend the impression either that there are not people out there doing their part. But I have to speak in generalities.

So for all of us who are doing our part, I thank God for that. I encourage you to continue. And for those of us who feel we can pull or push a little harder, then I encourage you to do that as well.

With that, Madam Speaker, I thank you, and I thank this honourable House for giving me the opportunity. And for those who gave me a chance to be here to voice their concerns, I thank them for the opportunity as well.

Thank you very much. God bless.

The Speaker: Thank you, Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause]

Third Elected Member for Bodden Town.

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour, Third Elected Member for Bodden Town: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm in full support of what we have brought here today. I am not going to be long, but I hope my message is effective.

Madam Speaker, the scope of things has changed in this country. I remember growing up in the 70s. The police for some reason knew everything that was going on in the districts. They would patrol on foot. They knew people on a first-name basis. If they caught you riding a bicycle without a licence on it, they would give you a break, and, in turn, you would be willing to assist them.

Madam Speaker, we would have to expect growth in crime with growth in country. I think that there are a lot of things that we as a country, and the elected Government, did not plan properly moving forward as growth took us so fast in the 80s. Everybody was bathing in success in the 80s and we forgot about a lot. We made a lot of stuff come into these Islands. A lot of stuff was introduced that we did not care about because everybody was in times of plenty.

Well, the time has come when we cannot even control what is happening in our own country. It was something that was said (I don't know what), or something that was done to spark this type of activity, this wave of crime that we have going on in our country today, Madam Speaker. Don't know exactly what it is.

When I was [presenting] my speech just a few days ago in the House about the responsibility of politicians and members of the public when they get on the radio shows and write their letters in the [*Caymanian*] *Compass*, I mentioned the "crab-in-a-barrel" mentality. That is what our youth are seeing. They are constantly seeing Caymanians tearing Caymanians down. I don't know what they are saying to themselves when they see us behaving in this manner, but we can see that the results are not a positive thought.

We, as a country, need to pay careful attention whilst we try to prosecute whoever needs to be [prosecuted], but we need to try to understand what our young people are crying out for. Are [politicians] in this country putting our young people first? And not only saying it, but ensuring that we listen to them and address their concerns, Madam Speaker, and not only put a band aid approach in place?

Madam Speaker, one of my pet peeves as I came in here . . . because when we started to run for election three, four years ago, one of the things I expressed to my colleague was . . . We had some statistics showing that young people were not interested in politics. And when we did our research and spoke to some of the young people and so forth, one of the things [they said] was: *What are you all saying to connect with us? You are saying nothing to connect with us. What are you doing for us? You are not interested in anything that we are interested in.* And we can talk as much about what we want, about the pants down low or tattoos on the neck, we can talk about whatever we want, but we have to understand that every generation goes through some change.

I remember in the 70s the men would come back from sea and they had the big afro. I remember

some of the picks with the fists, that after they combed their hair they would actually leave the pick in their hair and that would be the place of rest for the pick. And every one of them came home with tattoos. It didn't make them bad persons, but it was a change in culture for Cayman. I remember growing up, Madam Speaker. I could not listen to reggae music in the 70s because I would get beat for it. I could not listen to Bob Marley. I had to listen to some good old country. It served its purpose at that time.

Madam Speaker, as I was saying earlier, one of my pet peeves in terms of youth, I think we need to develop a system. There are enough cries that have come to me, even before I was elected, Madam Speaker, about young people who can't get a job for a simple misdemeanor charge on their police record. And I agree with one of my colleagues in the House about the "three strikes and you're out." I think we need to devise some kind of plan.

So many young people are looking to me to try to come up with something to try to . . . not to protect them from doing wrong and not being charged, but to say to the young people, *Look, we know there are great challenges out there. We know there is great peer pressure and you know if you are caught doing a very simple charge it should not go on your police record.* And they should have "three strikes you're out" before something is placed on a young person's (under 23-years-old) police record. It affects them going to college and everything else.

I had a young lady call me just yesterday. She is 21 years old. She wants a job. She said: *I am sick of depending on my parents.* And I asked her what the problem was. She said: "I did something a couple years ago, about five years ago, trying to protect a friend. And I told a little lie and that is on my police record and I can't get it off."

I said, "What?"

These are the things that our youth have to deal with and we have to take a serious approach to passing laws in this House that will assist our young people in their cries. We are not doing enough. Their pants being low down is not [just] for no reason at all. They are crying out for something, Madam Speaker.

My son does not wear his [pants] down low, and he is going to be 18 in two weeks. But I sat down as a parent when he reached that double age of 10 and spoke to him about certain things in life. Sometimes as parents we just speak to our children and expect that it has been embedded into their head. We need to constantly talk and coach and encourage.

Look at me and where I have come from—humble beginnings. Some may have thought that I should not have been here. I should be an example to the children of this country, in that you can do much with little; that you can achieve everything possible. But, Madam Speaker, definitely as legislators, we [need to] recognise that some of the reasons why young people are not inclined to even get into any-

thing political is because we are not connecting with them. We need to realise that, Madam Speaker.

We need to stop the negative bickering on the radio talk shows and try to assist the Government. And try to assure that we can employ people, employ our young people. Don't try to stop everything that we are trying to do by throwing those curve balls and roadblocks in the way and lie down in the road and all kinds of stuff. As my colleague, the Fourth Elected Member for George Town, said, there are certain things that the 15 of us need to get together on, in this honourable House, and say, *Look, this is something that we are not going to separate on.*

Madam Speaker, we have lost so many senior policemen with good intelligence. All of it went out of the window, Madam Speaker, and we are trying to solve crime that we had under control while those senior policemen were there. Madam Speaker, I remember the times when certain police officers' names were called, whether they were into the Drug Force or Task Force, Marine Unit, or whatever, when you heard they were coming there was fear! Now, Madam Speaker, there is no fear.

We have people smoking a little joint on the side of the road. That would have never happened, a couple of years ago. They had respect, they understood the law and they knew what was wrong from right. And, Madam Speaker, they would never do something like that. They had respect for the people around them. Now they come and stand up by you. Why? Why do we think that is happening, Madam Speaker? Because of some of the sentiments that have been sent from certain authorities in saying that they are happy to go out with a nine-inch club and a Blackberry cell phone to defend this country.

The Speaker: We need to stay on the subject that is before the House, because we do have a meeting with the Commissioner and the Governor set up and we need to get through.

Express your opinions on the subject but please do not dilly-dally too long along the road.

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: I've always been accused of dilly-dallying, Madam Speaker, and I thank you. I always used to dilly-dally when I was sent to the store as a young boy. But I always got home with a good bread that didn't get tied up in the bicycle wheel.

Madam Speaker, I thought . . . okay. I'll wrap up then, Madam Speaker.

I just want to say, Madam Speaker, that I have noticed, and a lot of people in this country have noticed . . . and these are some of the things that make people think different towards certain organisations.

You can't have 20 to 30 police officers combing a whole area when they hear that somebody has a little joint in their hand. And when Reflections is getting robbed they take 15 to 20 minutes to get there

because they know the person out there has a gun and they don't have any in the car. That kind of mentality is what has to change. We need to put fear into the criminal element.

Madam Speaker, there is a syndrome called a "child syndrome." And one of the things about a child syndrome is that a child tries to see from a very young age what he can get away with. Very young age! And as you scold him then he realises, *Boy, I can't do that; let me try something else.* And as they try something else and they are scolded they will say, *Well, I can't do that.*

What is happening in this country now is that the criminals feel that they can get away with everything because they have tried everything and they have gotten away with it. So they are lawless!

Personally, I was not in Cabinet. But I can tell you, Madam Speaker, either they take that million dollars that we just gave them and feed the people of this country who need food, because they say they are robbing for food, or take it and pay overtime to the staff in the police so that we can boost up the services to have enough coverage around this Island. But we need to do something.

I personally think that outside force coming here as a team should be used as part of our strategy, which many other countries have gone to. As we got elected we met with a group from Detroit who are used to this type of crime and who were willing to come in here, and we refused it because we felt like—*not us.* They refused the assistance that we were suggesting which was ready to come. But, Madam Speaker, I know how it is; it is just like someone coming to your house and asking you to help control your family and you feel embarrassed and will say, *No man, I can control my own family man. I don't need any help man.* Deep down inside you know you don't even have a chance in controlling your family.

Madam Speaker, we should have brought in that US team from Detroit. But as the old Good Book, the Bible, says, the stone that the builder refused is going to end up being the very cornerstone, the chief cornerstone.

We need that shock-and-awe effect that the military provides. We need to send a wave through this country to make people understand, yes, there are problems in this country. We need to get people employed. We need to ensure the people are fed. We need to ensure that the elderly are taken care of. But we need to be respectful of others and their properties and to just be a little patient. We need to send a shock-and-awe effect.

Madam Speaker, as I wrap up I will say that I gave the police a programme that I found while I was campaigning for election. It was [about] gang training where the police went into the schools and connected with the children. There was a model where you had to go and train in Arizona. It is a very effective model where the police would be respected by the children.

But all of that has been two years now. They did all kinds of research and all kinds of stuff. What I think they did [was] research a shelf to put it on.

When you go to these police meetings—and, Madam Speaker, I am going to wrap up on this because this is one of my pet peeves too—and sometimes—

The Speaker: That is a lot of wrapping.

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: You should see those American wrappers.

[inaudible interjection]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: I apologise, Madam Speaker. But—

The Speaker: We have five people left to speak.

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Okay I promise I won't be two minutes . . . plus two.

But we have these police meetings, Madam Speaker, and the way that I see these police meetings conducted . . . and I've seen some very effective ones, you know, from certain police officers who are district leaders in certain districts who find a way, without giving so much information, to give the public at least some information and to make them feel a part of it and write down what they are saying and try to make policy and come back to them. [They] take their number and let them know that what they were suggesting at the Savannah School where a police officer is needed because there is too much traffic speeding there or whatever, we think that is a good idea and we are putting a man there.

Make the public feel like they are a part of! Don't make us feel like we are coming there to just listen to your ideas that are not working! Madam Speaker, all I hear them saying is: "That information we cannot give out; that information we cannot give out". But I believe it is better to give that information out because they might solve something! Give to get!

Madam Speaker, I could go into some other little stuff but I am going to wrap up at this time because I know a lot of my colleagues are going . . . everybody is in support of this so I am not going to go too long on this. And God bless this country.

God bless the people of the Cayman Islands and I ask the young people of this country to be a little patient. I ask my Government to just consistently and continuously look into trying to find programmes for our young people to ensure that we are always on message with preparing for our future and with our young people in mind.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Third Elected Member.

First Elected Member for Cayman Brac [and Little Cayman].

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell, First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I stand in support of the Motion brought by the Honourable Premier. I have said this before in this honourable House, it is our job to create an environment for our citizens to have a safe, secure place to work and live, provide education for citizens to have every opportunity to succeed; provide quality healthcare at affordable cost; provide the opportunity for social wellbeing. Madam Speaker, none of this can happen if we do not control crime and offer the environment that is needed.

Madam Speaker, this week has been a week of back and forth in this honourable House, but one of the things that I will forever remember here is my colleague from the Brac in her presentation and her comments. She said that we have an opportunity to come together as 15 and tackle a situation in this country. And then I heard the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town stand up and echo that. And then I saw a passion in each Member of this honourable House as they started thinking about the huge responsibility that we each have as we tackle crime.

I made the comment in my contribution that as the police come to Finance Committee for funding, I have never seen anything not given that they requested when it came to the Legislative Assembly voting for funds for them. So, Madam Speaker, the passion that was developed was interesting from the standpoint of how it carried on.

The delegation from Jamaica, when they stopped here, some of the Members involved were responsible for prisons, crime, and rehabilitation. And unbeknownst to me there were two conversations, one that I was involved in about the prison system and what it cost to house a prisoner in a Jamaican prison, and the idea, if our system was to get overcrowded, of sharing some of the prisons that they have available. Later that afternoon in a conversation I found out that there was actually another group involved in that same conversation.

So, Madam Speaker, I believe that that was the passion of every one starting to develop. And then this morning as the independent Member and the Opposition huddled and the Government huddled unbeknownst to each other, but with almost the same motion and the same idea for inclusiveness, for all of us to be together. Madam Speaker, I compliment the Government and the Premier in the way the Motion has been brought because he says "Whereas the Members of this honourable Legislative Assembly." Each one of us here who stands in support of this Motion, as he has brought it, came together in solidarity, Madam Speaker, to stand behind the Premier and the

Government to work with what is needed from the police who are charged with this responsibility.

So, Madam Speaker, I believe that what we see here today is a message to the criminal, it is a message to each individual member of our community, and it is a message to the whole social structure of our country that we have drawn a line in the sand and said that there is no separation from the legislators, there is separation from the ones they have entrusted with this huge responsibility.

Madam Speaker, we all stand together on this, we all speak with one voice and I am very pleased to support this Motion.

The Speaker: Thank you, First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

Minister for Health, First Elected Member for Bodden Town.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland, Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, in the interest of time, but more importantly the interest of my stomach at this time, I will be very brief.

Madam Speaker, without a doubt the increasing level of the violent crime that we have seen over the past few years and on a daily basis now . . . when I hear my phone buzz in the middle of the night I am looking to see what message just came in from 911 to see what robbery, armed robbery, shooting or other crime that is taking place and where!

As my colleagues from the eastern districts have spoken about, it is very troubling to see the increase in those crimes as the wave has moved from the more populous districts of West Bay and George Town and have started to head out to the eastern districts. Madam Speaker, just to say that it is not acceptable for those crimes to happen in any of our six districts throughout the Cayman Islands, but is just as the crime heads to those districts, it is a signal of the increase over the years. Madam Speaker, these levels of crimes are in no way acceptable to residents here, Caymanians, but are a severe, severe threat to our future existence as far as our financial and tourism industries are concerned.

Madam Speaker, we look no further than at the US State Department's website where recently an email was flying around. The Travel Advisory for the US State Department under "Safety and Security" says: "**In recent years the Cayman Islands have experienced an increase in criminal activity including gang and drug related shootings.**" And it goes on to speak about one particular crime in February 2010 which resulted in the death of a four year old. It talks about local law enforcement authorities aggressively addressing the challenges. But, Madam Speaker, this kind of message does not need to be

out on the worldwide web when we promote ourselves as being crime free, safe and secure.

Madam Speaker, it does not matter what projects we bring to the table. It could be the East End Seaport, dredging in the North Sound, the Dr. Shetty Hospital, the Economic Zone, the Port Project; we could build all of those projects, we could try to revive the economy, but, Madam Speaker, if we do not address this crime wave that we are experiencing right now, and curtail it, the existence of future economic development is at stake. And more importantly, the future for our children to grow up in a safe, secure community will all be at stake, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the crime has brought about an increase in anxiety amongst the members of the community. Not only do women fear going out at night now, or even sometimes in the day, but men, people who might want to stop at the gas station at night, sometimes we think that we'd better not stop there because we don't know what might happen. What about going to an ATM? So, the fear that has been perpetrated throughout our community now is one that was never there before, Madam Speaker. And we need to reduce that fear—remove that fear—and come back to a safe, secure community.

Madam Speaker, what is good about this is the unified approach. I am proud to be a Member of the Government today, that the . . . well, every day, yes, I am proud to be a Member of the Government. But even more so today, having had this Motion tabled by the Honourable Premier, and to see this unified approach that the Government and indeed the 15 Members in this Legislative Assembly are going to take.

Madam Speaker, I agree with my colleagues, those who have echoed their sentiments that we need additional expertise. Madam Speaker, there is nothing wrong with admitting when you don't have the resources, the expertise to handle the problem. There is nothing wrong with admitting that. And I stand here today to say that I strongly agree, I think we need additional expertise. We, as a Government, have suggested that.

We heard our colleague speak about the Premier saying that we need to bring a taskforce in. We have said that on occasion ourselves. And we need additional expertise now. This crime wave is going to overtake us to the point where we will get to a point of no return, Madam Speaker. We need deterrents to crime. Madam Speaker, the approach has to be to reduce crime and antisocial behavior. We have to detect a higher proportion of the crime, reduce the fear of crime and antisocial behavior, and we have to combat serious and organised crime.

Madam Speaker, several countries and states across the United States have had similar problems. One that comes to mind is in New York City when Mayor Rudy Giuliani in the late 80s and 90s took on the serious crime wave that New York City was expe-

riencing. He employed a theory there called the “Broken Windows Theory”, Madam Speaker. The idea of that theory is that you have to pay attention to the small things otherwise they get out of control and get much worse. By allowing small crimes to occur, ignoring them and not dealing with those crimes, things get out of control.

Madam Speaker, why it came up with the name “Broken Windows Theory,” was that if you have an abandoned building in the neighbourhood, no one pays any attention to it. If someone throws a rock through the window and breaks it, you ignore that broken window and next week it will have another broken window; next week another broken window, and so on. And by ignoring it, sooner or later the building becomes dilapidated because of vandalism and the problem becomes worse and worse. The way to combat and address crime with the “Broken Windows Theory”, Madam Speaker, is to employ a zero tolerance approach—zero tolerance to even the minimal of crimes, Madam Speaker. Zero tolerance even to the smallest of crimes. You cannot give criminals any sense of immunity from criminal activity, Madam Speaker. And by ignoring smaller crimes, our level of tolerance having grown over the years, gives criminals that sense of immunity and takes them to a higher level of crime.

If I can drive without my coupon, if I can drive with the tint on my window (as my colleague from Bodden Town said), if I can get away with this small crime then I can get away with a little bigger crime. And that is why we are now at the point where criminals are brandishing guns and walking around on the street, Madam Speaker. That is why we are at that point now—because we have ignored the smaller crimes over the years and they now think they can get away with the larger crimes. And they are getting away with it! They are getting away with them because we are not showing them that we have the force to stop them from what they are doing.

We keep talking about the police walking around without arms. And we talk about the security guards that have the nine-inch baton and the BlackBerry as their line of defence. Any criminal knows that he can walk into any establishment now, carry out his crime, whether it is an armed robbery, and chances of getting caught are very, very slim because we are not showing the force on the street as we should, as a police force, as a country, to be able to deter them from that crime.

The criminal should have that assumption that if he is going to carry out a crime he has some chance of being caught. If he takes that gamble now the chances of him being caught, Madam Speaker, are very, very slim. And the only way to be able to put some fear in them, Madam Speaker, is a show of force, and that is what the police need now, Madam Speaker; a huge show of force as a deterrent to re-

duce that level of tolerance which we have come to over the years.

Madam Speaker, obviously the lack of apprehensions and securing of cases in conviction has resulted in a very, very low confidence within our police force, and within the judiciary to a certain extent. And we have to work to instill that confidence, and to replace that confidence that was once there. People have to get back to the point where they can call the police and give information without fear of that information being back to them in a couple of minutes or a couple of hours.

I’ve had that experience myself, Madam Speaker. I have had that experience myself, where I have called the police to report something, and I get a text on my phone 15 or 20 minutes later from the person that I reported asking me why I reported them to the police. I’ve said that to high-ranking persons in the police force and they said, “No, that does not happen.”

Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts, First Elected Member for George Town: It happens.

Deputy Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O’Connor-Conolly: It happened to me too.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: *No that doesn’t happen.* But it happened to me, Madam Speaker.

So, even in my position I am reluctant to report a crime if the person that I report is going to call or text within a half hour to ask me why I reported it. And we need to get that level of confidence back.

This whole thing about having to give your full name and details to report a misdemeanor . . . you know, if someone is carrying out some small activity, playing some loud music in the neighbourhood, and I have to tell the police my full name, address and when was the last time I went to George Town for them to be able to come out and address that activity, that is ridiculous, Madam Speaker. Ridiculous!

Madam Speaker, it is obvious that the Government has a number of initiatives, policies and so on that we are working on which are aimed at reducing crime in the long term. The National Youth Policy under my Ministry is being revised and should be tabled very shortly. I know the Minister of Education will probably speak to a lot of it. It has some major initiatives such as the BEST Programme [Behaviour Education Support Team] and others which are aimed at long-term crime reduction.

But, Madam Speaker, we can work on all of those initiatives and dedicate funds, and fund all the school programmes and other sports programmes with as much money as we have, but if we do not address this serious crime wave which we are currently experiencing—where we have to wake up every morning and find out which store was robbed or which person was shot at or which person was carjacked last night—it won’t matter what programmes we im-

plement now, Madam Speaker. We have to detect criminals who are out there now, show force that we mean business as a country, as a Government, as a police. Show that they don't have bigger guns than we do, and that, if need be, something will happen to one of them if they continue to perpetrate crimes on innocent people the way that they have in recent times, Madam Speaker.

Deterrents have to be the focus, Madam Speaker—*Deterrents*. And when I say “deterrents” [I am speaking to] deterrents in the criminal justice system. People spoke about death penalties and so on. I won't go into that, Madam Speaker. But deterrents are certainly there for people who get caught and get into the judicial system. But the deterrents I am speaking about are also deterrents from you committing the crime in the first place. People have to know that the chance of getting caught are much higher than what they are nowadays, Madam Speaker. People make calculated decisions about what they are going to do and if criminals know that they are not going to get caught, or the chances of them getting caught are very slim, the crime will continue to increase. The crime will continue to increase, Madam Speaker, and get our worse nature.

You know the two crimes that happened yesterday in West Bay were in the day—still in the sunlight. Still in the sunlight, Madam Speaker! And when a criminal can walk up to a car and point a gun at someone and take their handbag in the broad day, you can't get much worse than that, Madam Speaker. You can't get much worse than that now. That is what you call brazen.

So, as I said, Madam Speaker, I am proud that we have brought this Motion today. I am also thankful for the unity that has been expressed across both sides of this House today. I look forward to the discussion that is going to ensue with the Commissioner following the debate on this Motion. And, Madam Speaker, I know that with the continued unity . . . because my colleagues, the Fourth Elected Member for George Town and the Deputy Premier in one of her debates earlier this week talked about not making crime a political football. And yes, there are certain issues that should never become political footballs. And I think crime is the number one on that list. It should never be a political football because it is too important to all of us who live here, Madam Speaker. It is too important to all of us who live here in the Cayman Islands.

With those brief words, Madam Speaker, I will take my seat in the kitchen for some lunch and thank you again.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister for Health.

In case anyone is wondering, the Members are taking their lunch. We are working through the

lunch hour so that we can be ready for the Governor and the Commissioner when they can come here.

I also want to record at this time (I should have done it when the Members stood when I called for seven Members to stand) that the entire House stood to indicate their unity on this matter and I think it needs to be recorded so that the public can understand what is going on here today, as opposed to other days when you hear it but you can't see it.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

Minister of Community Services and Second Elected Member for George Town.

Hon. Michael T. Adam, Minister of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you for allowing me to make a short contribution.

I rise to confirm my unconditional support on the Motion brought by the Honourable Premier to repeat the call on His Excellency the Governor—and I repeat; *the call on His Excellency the Governor*—and by extension the Commissioner of Police, to immediately recruit and deploy a serious and organised crime unit.

Madam Speaker, clearly the serious crime trend that we are experiencing is at a level of primary concern for all in this country that requires robust, meaningful and immediate intervention.

Madam Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, my colleagues and I in Cabinet, with the support of our Government Backbench and our Members on the other side of the House, have approved all budget requests that have been requested by the RCIP to increase their resources and other capability to appropriately respond to this trend.

Madam Speaker, as we all know, armed robberies, abductions, home and business invasions, the assault on individuals and robberies of individuals who are innocently just walking on the street. Recent car-jacking, as recent as last night, et cetera, have become commonplace in what was once a tranquil society.

Madam Speaker, keeping focused on the issue of serious crime and the significant increase of the letters to the press, the comments on the talk shows, the presence of security guards and surveillance measures undertaken by our businesses and homeowners is evident of our citizens' and residents' ongoing concern. Clearly, Madam Speaker, the current strategies employed by the RCIP are not effectively achieving the desired and required result to control this rising serious crime trend that we are experiencing.

Madam Speaker, we clearly need to act immediately to employ radical strategies and/or measures to confront this evil. For example, as my colleague, the First Elected Member for Bodden Town, mentioned, the burrows of New York, Harlem and the Bronx in particular, were entirely out of control

and run by the Dons until Governor Giuliani launched a Zero Tolerance Campaign a few years back against serious organised crime that effectively thwarted this culture.

There are other similar examples. And this gives me, Madam Speaker, the confidence to know that we can, in this relatively small country, return to the peace and tranquility that we once enjoyed, provided we do something similar, albeit on a smaller scale. But let's do it now. Madam Speaker, we simply have to take the bull by the horns and launch an effective campaign. The Cayman Islands are unique in terms of being a relatively small country. And I believe that gives us the strength, and I clearly know that this situation and many others in this country are manageable. We just have to act and act now.

Madam Speaker, as I said, I would keep it short and I just want to thank you for the privilege of making these few short comments. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Minister of Community Services.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
Minister of Education taking the Floor.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin, Minister of Education, Training and Employment: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, let me just offer a few brief comments. I have heard the majority of my colleagues' debates and I can say that I concur with the vast majority of what has been said thus far. But, Madam Speaker, there is one point that we cannot miss.

This Motion is calling for action that has been resisted thus far. The House must be prepared for the meeting that we are calling for with His Excellency the Governor and the Commissioner. Whilst we are not asking or trying to interfere with general day to day operations of the Police Service, we are calling once again on the Commissioner of Police to do things differently. That is what we are here doing, and we can't lose sight of that collectively as legislators.

Madam Speaker, I implore my colleagues that when we go and meet with His Excellency the Governor and the Commissioner that we do not take the rhetoric and all the flowery language that the Commissioner of Police is going to come with. He is going to come with all of the statistics about crime being down.

[inaudible interjection]

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, statistics are just that—numbers.

As I have said to the Commissioner time and time again—and I will say it today on the Floor of this House—the most important statistic for me is how

many times I look over my shoulder these days when I never used to. The most important statistic for me is the number of women who tell me they don't go walking anymore. The most important statistic for me is the number of persons who tell me they don't go to happy hour on a Friday anymore for fear; the most important statistic for me is the number of people in this community who live in real fear. And it is no longer about going into the wrong places in Grand Cayman—it is about going to gas stations, it is about going to mainstream restaurants, it is about going to the ATM machine.

Madam Speaker, what the Commissioner of Police and His Excellency the Governor need to understand is that the policing strategies have failed. When we have people who will go about this community in broad daylight and commit serious crimes, armed robberies—bank robberies, no less—time and time again . . . they hit the same business, *time and time again*. If they are not awakened and shook by those facts, this community is. The community that they are to serve is shaken, and shaken for good reason. This is not about a one-off that everybody is talking about; these are repeated headlines, repeated occurrences of serious crime in this country.

We have to accept and the Commissioner of Police, in particular, has to accept, that he is not policing in the United Kingdom; he is policing in the Caribbean. More particularly, he is policing in the Cayman Islands. The strategies and approaches that work in other places are not working here. The people that he polices and their psyche are completely different in the Cayman Islands.

This new wave of criminal that resides within this community is unlike anything this community has seen before. And so for us to believe somehow that even the strategies that were used before he came, and perhaps before this style of policing was brought into being in Cayman, is going to work would be foolhardy. When officers of the RCIPS are more concerned about internal investigations, the threat of internal investigation, the threat of someone simply going and complaining on them, that it causes them to act and to behave in a different manner, it ought to be of serious concern to the Commissioner of Police.

I can tell him that I believe every Member of this House and, indeed, the vast majority, if not all, of the people in this community, would rather his efforts and his strength and his energy be spent on ensuring that the potential that resides within the organisation—for which he is the leader—is unleashed in this community versus worrying about the one or two people who are going to complain. How can we accept that we should build systems to deal with and make happy and please an absolute minority in our community when the vast majority won't demand something else?

The point has been raised that the community wants a police force. The community wants an organisation that is about serving and protecting. But most

importantly, serving and protecting our very personal and national internal security. That is what the community wants. What we have to ask everyone involved in the exercise—that is, the entire community—is how many of us are going to accept each of our individual roles. I say if there is anyone who is not willing to accept that mandate, the mandate that the country wants a police force that can fight crime, that can fight criminals, that has backbone, that has strength, then perhaps all those persons need to make a choice about whether or not it is in the Cayman Islands that they want to be. That, for me, is where I have reached.

I am sick and tired of the meetings. This Government has pushed, pushed and pushed. This Motion is nothing more than what the Honourable Premier and the Government have been calling for, for more than over a year. That is all this is. This is what we have been calling for. So let us not believe and pretend somehow that today's Motion is something new; this is what we have been calling for forever and a day. This is what we are demanding.

So many times I have heard over the last two years, officers complaining about the fact that what they did six, seven, eight years ago is now frowned upon—*Oh no, that is not the modern style of policing; that is not the modern approach that we are supposed to use.* Madam Speaker, we need to get back to the policing that works in this community with this set of criminals. Not the style that works across the Atlantic. So, as the Minister of Health has said, all and sundry need to be man enough to not only accept that what we are doing is not working, but to accept the cold hard facts. Is it the Cayman Islands that we are willing to police, and police effectively?

Madam Speaker, it seems to me that what is of paramount importance these days are official investigations, arguing about what should happen with private security firms, and arguing about whether or not this country, this society, should or should not have access to firearms for any private citizen who meets a very robust and stringent requirement to acquire them and to keep them, while the real work of robust policing seems to be just drifting and becoming more and more of a shadow—a shadow, not even an image, a shadow—in our rearview mirror.

When the Members of this House meet we must not take no for an answer. How much longer are we going to pussyfoot around?

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition mentioned when he started to see a shift, and I say it ran parallel with when this gold command of policing came full bore into operation in this country. It is coincidental that other things happen naturally, in my opinion.

What works in large countries with numerous police stations that can interact and bring to bear resources collectively, is very different than this little 22 mile Island that is shaped like a boot. This little 22

mile Island that has so many areas uncovered by things like CCTVs [Close-Circuit TV]. So when you take a country and a community like the United Kingdom that has a very different population, very different people, very different society, that has tools like CCTVs, tools like telecom intercepts, multiple police stations that can work together, and you try to compare that with what we have here, the difference is night and day.

I believe in life, as with all things, there is no one-size-fits-all with policing. I predict that at the meeting we are going to hear a lot of rhetoric, we are going to hear a lot of statistics; we are going to hear all about how it has been adjusted to size to fit the Cayman Islands.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Put them in here and let's broadcast it.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: I say that we have given it long enough. We have given long enough now for results to actually come to fruition, come to bear. We have given this tree long enough to bear fruit.

Madam Speaker, the fact of the matter is, unless we as a community—and included in that is the police force—do and act in ways in which criminals and the new wave of criminal in Cayman, the new breed of criminal in Cayman, is going to understand, they will continue doing and do more.

I think all of us in the House are parents. We know what it is like if we have a child who pushes that envelope. We know what it is like when they try something and we do not assist them in understanding that perhaps what they did they should not have done. The minute we don't do it, they will repeat it tomorrow and then by the next day they will do a little more, and by the next day they will do a little more, and before you know it, you have what parents in this community are complaining about—5-year-olds, 8-year-olds that they can't handle. Just as the homes continue to have that as a feature, parents complaining about small children they can't control, why should we be surprised that as a community we have criminals who are out of control?

I have always said from the time I got elected to this Assembly: Show me your homes and I'll show you our society. Show me our homes and I will show you our society. We collectively have to admit . . . and I have said this in this House from the time I got elected—and they used to call me a little young fop for it—we have gotten soft in the gut as a community; soft in the belly as a society, accepting of too much. But now we are starting to see the consequences. And this is but the beginning unless we collectively gather our political might and harness it and move in one direction.

This is no time for dissention around small points; this is no time for one-upmanship. This is not the time for excuses. This is no time to rush to see

who can get on the talk show first and try to lay claim to credit. This is a time for us to finally decide if we can lead by example and stop being crabs in a bucket. See if we can, but for a period of sustained time, stand shoulder to shoulder. Because if we think that the meeting that we are hoping to hold is going to be the be-all and end-all, and that all of a sudden we are going to make the impact and the impression and influence that we need, we are kidding ourselves on this subject. Unless the 15 of us agree that we need to stick together from now on straight up through May 2013, when our mandate from the public expires, we will not achieve the desired outcome. We will not.

Colleagues, what is at stake today, is the economy, our society, the way in which we live, the way in which we move and have our being. But as important, is what we are going to leave for tomorrow. And for any of us who might want to say, *Well, that sounds a little farfetched. Or, yeah, yeah we can deal with that*, let us think about how quickly the time that we have spent in here has gone by. I certainly can't believe that in a few short days it will be 11 years. I am sure the Honourable Premier can probably hardly believe that he has been here what? Three decades now?

That's how quickly time passes by and things happen. That's how quickly.

Madam Speaker, I for one am going to say quite clearly to the Commissioner of Police today, I don't want to hear any of this rubbish about good up-standing people. If they want to have a gun let them have a gun!

Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts: Hear, hear!

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: If they meet the criteria, let them have it. It is their God-given right, if they meet the criteria, and that is what they desire. That does not make you a criminal or a bad person. Right now we have one of the best sports persons in the Cayman Islands who went overseas and won shooting events. That does not make him and all of those members of the Shooting Club bad people. It comes back down about accepting the society that you are policing.

What the Commissioner of Police and the Governor need to accept is that, yes, we are an Overseas Territory, but there is nothing British about this country. They may not like the fact that we have a very Americanised society. They may not like the fact that a lot of what is happening in this country is very much North American and Americanised. Therefore, how we approach and move has to be informed about the people! It has to be informed by the society! I heard Dr. Frank McField on the radio just the other day on this very same topic. He went at great pains for over half an hour making this very point, that if you don't understand the society and the people, then how can you educate them? How can you police them?

Madam Speaker, this excuse . . . I'm glad, and I think it was the Honourable Leader of the Opposition who raised this. And maybe others have as well. This whole business about the economy being tough and people being out of work as an excuse for criminal behavior must not be accepted and endorsed by any one of us. And I certainly hope the hosts of the talk shows will take that on as well because I hear too much wishy-washy on our airwaves. I hope that the owners of radio stations, whilst they get the all-important advertising buck today, recognise that that short-term gain is going to go nowhere for them when they have to put bars over the windows of their homes, when they have to start to hire personal security.

So they better pay attention to what is happening on their radio shows. And they better put some training in place so that people can start to understand that whilst those shows ought to have freedom for people to express opinions, that we have people who man the all-important microphone that will stand up and put a clear demarcation in the sand for what is right and wrong on certain topics. And no right-thinking adult in this country should accept any excuse that talks about, *Oh well, unemployment is what is causing the crime in this country.*

What is causing the crime are people who don't want to work. What is causing the crime are people who want to take the shortcut. What is causing the crime are drug gangs who commit armed robberies to get the funds to pay for the next drug shipment. That is what is causing the crime.

We, the 15 of us, need to set the bar for this community. The community has been asking for it for a long time. And on this subject I am going to be wholly disappointed if the 15 of us can't do that for the people who have elected us; can't do that for our children—by God, Madam Speaker, can't do it for ourselves. Because I don't know which one in here is going to be insane enough to get up and say that you don't look over your shoulders these days—because that is what you would have to be!

I must say, Madam Speaker, when I heard one of my colleagues say that as he drove up to the gas stations, depending on the time of day, he thought twice now . . . It happened to me just the other night leaving here late, and the gas light was on. I took the chance to make it home and make it back in the morning because of that uncertainty, that seed of doubt. How much further are we going to let this criminal element push us as a society?

Let me address one other point: It seems fashionable for us to say, *Oh, it's a small segment of our community that is causing all of this havoc.* Madam Speaker, I don't know the numbers, but I think we ought to rid ourselves of that fallacy, that it is a small—*Oh, it is only 10, 15.* We have a significant enough amount of people who are involved with criminal behavior, involved in the criminal enterprise, that it

should be worrisome to us. Because if we think that we don't have drug addicts who are going out there and committing more serious crime at the behest of drug lords and pushers to feed their habit, we are kidding ourselves. If we think that it is only about 10 or 15 people, we are truly kidding ourselves, Madam Speaker.

I would agree that certainly when it comes to looking at a percentage of our entire population, sure, like most countries it is the minority. It is, relatively speaking, a small percentage. But, Madam Speaker, when you have 55,000 versus 10,000 to 15,000, as we used to, all of a sudden when you are talking about the 5 per cent or whatever, those are real numbers. We have more people involved in criminal behavior in this country than the 200 plus that we see in Northward. It is not anything for us to take likely.

Yes, as a Government we continue to try to employ strategies that we hope in the long term will cause people not to get involved with criminal behavior in the first place. Yes, I hold out much hope for our BEST approach. Yes, I hold out much hope for the new Behavior for Learning Strategies. Yes, I hold much hope for the therapeutic community that Minister Adam is going to bring into being. I hold out much hope for the extended after-school programme that my Ministry is running at secondary in conjunction with the Ministry of Youth. Yes, I hold out much hope for the youth initiatives and programmes. But, Madam Speaker, we have to deal with the 'here and now' and the 'here and now' has me concerned enough that, as a Member of the Cabinet, I am willing to come to the Legislative Assembly and call on the Chairman of the Cabinet who has constitutional responsibility for Internal Security, and his main officer, to carry out that mandate—the Commissioner of Police—to meet, to listen, to act, and to act differently. Because what is happening here is not good. It is bad! It is appalling! It is worrying! It is distressing!

Ultimately, Madam Speaker, if there is one thing that keeps me up at night, it is crime. It seeks to undermine everything that we have built throughout the generations in this community. Generations of hard work is what has brought every one of us here. I say all the time, we stand on the shoulders of the pioneers who lived through the mosquitoes, [who] invested [in these] Islands that time forgot, but forged on.

Wouldn't it be a travesty if we would allow ourselves to continue to be sucked into all of the talk and rhetoric and statistics and not stand together in unity and demand change? The only thing that is going to bring about a different result is a different approach. And I say one of the first things (I don't know where it is contained in the legislation) that we ought to do, is to ensure as Members across this Chamber have said, that along with everything else we do, we go back to calling the Royal Cayman Islands Police, the "Royal Cayman Islands Police Force"!

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: I agree with that!

An Hon. Member: I'll second it!

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: We tried it in the Bill and they wouldn't go with it.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: It may sound insignificant, but it sends a very important message. It sends a very important message.

So, Madam Speaker, this Motion has my support. But I say to all my colleagues, put on your seat-belt and get strapped in. And if you have a helmet, put that on too. If you have any other type of personal armour put it on, because this is going to be a real battle for us to get the change that we need.

[inaudible interjection and laughter]

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: *[replying to interjector]* Well, you know I have been very serious, so I will have to pick up my colleague on that one. I guess we will bring our shovel or wheelbarrow and our dump truck too because we know we are going to get some of that.

But anyway, Madam Speaker, we must stand together. This is going to be a long, hard battle for us to make the changes and get the changes. We know, as we have all said, none of us are police but all of us know what works and what does not work. And what is happening around here nowadays is not working.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Minister of Education. This is food for thought.

[inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?

First Elected Member for George Town.

Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts, First Elected Member for George Town: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, this Motion is certainly what I would term a step in the right direction. As I listened to the Honourable Minister of Education say that certain style of policing does not work here for us, it was no longer than last night in the parking lot that I said the same thing.

And, Madam Speaker, I dare say I have spoken this privately to previous governors; not one governor, more than one governor, because while we may not wish to speak to the issue very personally, I believe, and I will have to say it is my opinion but I consider that opinion to be factual, that given our own experiences and the constitutional arrangement which we have, what used to work here in the Cayman Is-

lands by way of policing (and I can only call it a *style* of policing) certainly does not work anymore.

I want to follow-up with the issue of the RCIPS, first of all, and changing the name back to the "Royal Cayman Islands Police Force." I take the point and I don't differ from the point, but I want to make sure (I won't say I'm certain), but I believe that when the Minister of Education spoke about that, he will agree with me that while I understand exactly what he is saying, the community policing and the services which are provided . . . no one is suggesting that that should not continue.

I see the nod of the head. I was pretty certain that that was not what he was saying. But I know that some people might get the wrong impression so we want to make sure that we understand that very clearly. No one is suggesting that that should stop because that has its benefits.

But, Madam Speaker, if the truth were to be rolled out in front of us, there are so many issues which the RCIPS has to deal with which are internal issues, it is no wonder that full concentration can't be given to all of the other pressing areas which will be part of their remit. Madam Speaker, certainly I'm not one who has any desire to suggest or to try to break the spirit of those officers who have either decided recently to make policing a career, or those who are long-serving officers who have served well and continue to serve well. But, Madam Speaker, I believe if we could hear from them regarding that issue, we would hear about many of the internal issues.

We are hearing as we speak that there has been another armed robbery. I don't know if it is a fact, Madam Speaker, but that perhaps tells the tale. And, Madam Speaker, what the Honourable Premier and everybody else is in agreement with in suggesting today is worth it a hundred times over. Because the fact is that if as a country we do not get a grip on this, then all of the other things that we work for will be worth nothing.

The future really does not look too bright as we speak. And, Madam Speaker, you know sometimes even in here, the Members of this Legislative Assembly, get on about whose responsibility what is. But the fact is, Madam Speaker, while we have a new Constitution, and while that is a bit different from the Constitution which we had from the early 70s until 2009, at the end of the day, it is still the official side of Government who has total responsibility regarding operational matters. I don't want at this point in time to suggest that we know better and we should be in charge of that. Not for one minute. But what I want to more than suggest, Madam Speaker, is that some of those people begin to listen to what many of us have been saying for quite some time in different public and private forums.

You see, Madam Speaker, what we have been used to over the years is nothing like what we face today. The mindset is different, the objectives are

different, and the level of organisation is totally different. So, the same thing that used to cope with all of the other stuff just does not hack it. And, Madam Speaker, I dare say before I sit (because I certainly do not wish to tarry too long) that this thing goes deep, deep, deep besides the physical actions that we see now.

If we really intend to have a future, we cannot just look at what we see happening now, because, whilst some of it is not deep-seated, much of it is. Much of it has to do with social ills. And, Madam Speaker, I'm no young fledgling, so I am perhaps one of those who would not grace these hallowed Halls for a very long time in the future. But I want to say to all of us, and to those who aspire here, that one of the biggest challenges we should recognise, and be part and parcel of the solution to, is the same problem of these social ills that I speak to.

I'm not going to spend a lot of time on that today. But we know what we are talking about. Things that obtain in our country today and sometimes not very far away from us during our everyday run in life are things we only used to hear about, but they are happening right here now. Many things have changed and many of us do not want even to admit it; don't want to recognise it, much less try to do something about it.

And so, Madam Speaker, having said that, and without speaking at length about peripheral issues and sticking to the Motion itself, I certainly do support the Motion. I don't know what form any discussions that are being called for by the Honourable Premier, will take. Certainly, I am not trying to decide that one way or the other. But let me put it this way: Whatever form it takes I pray to God that we will reap some success even though it does not all rest on our shoulders as to what happens.

So, Madam Speaker, I pray God's speed with the hope that this Motion expresses and also that together we can see some success that this little small Island nation and our people can sleep at nights again.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, First Elected Member for George Town.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

Second Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, Honourable Minister of Communications.

Deputy Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Conolly: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I am going to endeavor to take a different approach to deal with what is greatly needed with our policing policy—that is, a different approach. And I would ask Members' indulgence to pardon the pun. To so do, Madam Speaker, we ought to be cognisant that police officers of the state have

the task of investigating crimes. That is a fundamental task, hence the reason I want to go on record concurring with the change of the nomenclature from "Service" back to "Force."

Now, Madam Speaker, being the daughter of a long-serving policeman in this country (my late Dad), I have always had a very soft and tender and sensitive heart towards the police force. And I have been a very avid supporter to ensure that they get the requisite resources, whether it is from an economic perspective or from a human resource perspective. But, Madam Speaker, when we have come to where we have reached now, enough is enough! And if it is not working we ought to fix it. I do so today, Madam Speaker, at the risk of being labeled by whatever commission or inquirer, writer, journalist, blogger, as interfering, but as Esther said, "I must see the King. And if I perish, I perish," Madam Speaker.

When investigating a crime there are strategies. It is no longer hide-and-peek, Madam Speaker. We are in an entirely different era. In fact, in investigating a crime there should be choices of the main strategies, and they fall basically in two areas, Madam Speaker: Firstly, the "reactive approach" and secondly, the "proactive approach." And if one wants to go into the details, there is also the "hybrid approach" where there is a combination of both approaches. And, Madam Speaker, it matters not to me which approach is used as long as we get a grip on what is happening here in this jurisdiction.

With the reactive approach, Madam Speaker, we find that the police respond to the public calls for help. It has gone beyond that today! The public have been calling in every form and methodology available to mankind. And for the first time I have seen 15 parliamentarians . . . I can't say I can take the kudos for asking for it in my presentation a few days ago, but we all stood together on an issue of national importance and that is what is the prerequisite as we nation build, Madam Speaker.

We as parliamentarians today are standing in this Parliament echoing that public clarion call for help. And indeed the police in charge can view it as they operate openly and respond to real public demand with the consent of the public. So they have their mandate emanating here today to act. Yes, under the Constitution we cannot interfere, erode or intrude into the operations. But when crime comes to this level we are going to step outside the box today, constitutional or unconstitutional. The police are heavily dependent on public co-operation. And it is far more important, in my respectful view, than any legal powers to detect crime.

The proactive approach, Madam Speaker—I am going through this because we are going into a meeting and I am sick of hearing statistics, so I am going to put on my school teacher's hat today. The proactive approach involves building up pictures of threats to peace and potential criminality through tar-

geting potential criminals and the surveillance of them. We have given the CCTV cameras, we have given the resources. I understand it was said that there are 15 known criminals in this country. Well, whatever the number is, if they are known, my question is, why has there not been through the system, through the process, the fear of the deterrent sanctioned?

But, Madam Speaker, you see we have inculcated this liberal culture into our Cayman culture where it is no longer in sync to talk about God. But the Bible still says, Madam Speaker, that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. And these are not statements that necessarily end up on front pages, but through the annals of history we would recognise that when the fear of the Lord is gone, there is no fear that is of any consequence, except the fear of the rebels and those deviants who have chosen to instill fear in this country.

And when good men and women decide to sit and say nothing; that is when we would have lost control of this country. And, as the Honourable Premier said . . . and I congratulate him once again in his vision of bringing this Motion today. That is why I could get up and support him and the Government and not support the censure motion, because we need leaders who are willing to stick with the guidelines. Yes, Madam Speaker, important. But when we have national issues like this, we have to all come to the good ship Cayman's rescue—from the captain to the watchman—and ensure that Cayman remains the way we grew up and know it, where there is not just good governance, which is very important, but there is law and order, Madam Speaker.

We see, Madam Speaker, that policing as practiced at the same, whether it is reactive or proactive, there is a compromise between them which can work. So, my question is: Why have not these strategies been implemented? Patrolling and reactive policing is felt to have limited impact, we are often told, against serious or professional crime, which should be the target of proactive policing. But, Madam Speaker, on the other hand, public tranquility and serenity and the reassurances are important and significant goals which can only be addressed when we have visible policemen.

In fact, the Home Secretary in the United States set out key objectives, and perhaps that may be the first place we need to start. Get the key objectives out so that we know that the right thing is being done.

Back in 1998 to 1999, Madam Speaker, the US Home Secretary set out the following objectives: To deal speedily and effectively with young offenders and to work with other agencies; to reduce reoffending (and, God, we have so much of that here); to target (not to write reports) and reduce local problems of crime and disorder in partnership with local—let me say that again, Madam Speaker—with *local authorities and local agencies*. They engage the public. They

targeted drug related crimes in partnership with local agencies; maintained the number of detections of violent crimes; they increased number of detections for burglaries of peoples' homes (and in Cayman we can now add businesses and cars); to respond promptly to emergency calls from the public.

Madam Speaker, I have been living in Cayman for a number of years. And on three occasions attempts have been made on my house to break in. One time I got police to respond where fingerprints were taken. And until this day I have not seen the outcome of that report. There was another time I gave information about a particular drug activity in Little Cayman at a very, very high level while I was in Grand Cayman, and by the time the Express landed at the airport in Cayman Brac, the person whose name I had given to the appropriate authorities, met me at the airport with his *face-ty-ness* and boldness right to my face and said, "Remember you have children."

Now, do you think, Madam Speaker, that is an incentive for me to go back with information, much less any other member of the public? We have to re-instill trust, Madam Speaker, between the public and the police force. And indeed, within the police force itself, because like Members on the other side, I too have many friends within the Police Service, and they are usurping the time that they should be spending on the road with internal investigations saying how the corrupt the police are, how corrupt everybody is except the criminals. Madam Speaker, there has to be a change in the policy of policing and the strategies here within the Cayman Islands.

Madam Speaker, the Home Secretary went on to say (and I fully concur and wish to refer to this): ". . . [the original powers of a constable to keep peace and to act against crime were seen as no more than private citizens. The constable was a 'citizen in uniform'](#)" (and that is almost what the force has become today, except the uniforms even seem to have disappeared) "**with no special powers and no special immunities. This picture was never 100% accurate, and the increasing professionalization of the police prompted calls for more formal powers to intervene.**"

That is where we find ourselves today, Madam Speaker, with policing. The traditional policing that have come along from the United Kingdom and from Europe with their liberal approach is not working in the Cayman, and I dare say in the other eight overseas territories, because I have heard my colleagues from these jurisdictions make similar complaints.

Madam Speaker, we do not have to reinvent the wheel for police policies and strategies here. In fact, Chicago has an Alternative Policing Strategy. They started where any good policy commences, they looked at the age groups, and they looked at the risk factors and broke it down and made it public. For example, with the individual they found that the risk factors were exposure to firearms and violence. And as

we listen we will see the similarities here in Cayman. High alcohol and drug use, high drug dealing, illegal gun ownership and carrying physical violence and aggression, and violent victimisation. That was the individual.

They then looked at the family and found that the risk factors were delinquent gangs involving siblings where parents won't give information because it is their son or some close relative, family history of problems, behavior and criminal activity. We are now into the second and in some cases, third generation of criminals on our streets in Cayman.

Family poverty and low family social economic status; family violence where there was child abuse and maltreatment partner violence and conflict; in other words, domestic violence. And I wish to thank the NGOs [Non-governmental Organisations] in Cayman for their work in that regard. And then they looked at the schools, Madam Speaker. What are the risk factors? They found frequent truancy, absences, suspensions, expelled from school, dropping out of school.

I remember when I was teaching, Madam Speaker, at the High School. There were children from particular districts in Cayman. And I can see the principal now, with blessed memory, coming to my classroom asking me to take another child that someone whose language they could not understand acted up and we had to take them. We understood each other because the culture was the same. And that is why we as a Government have made education a paramount consideration and have invested millions of millions of dollars to educate our children and train them up in the way that they should go.

And that is the reason why I fought so much like a tiger under the last Administration when it was learnt that there was an attempt to remove religion out of the education curriculum. And I am grateful that we were able to get it back in. We are a country that is a God-fearing country and we ought to remember that regardless of what the bloggers may say.

The Chicago alternative policy, Madam Speaker, then opened their scope of investigation to the community and they found the availability in use of drugs in the neighbourhood, the availability of illegal firearms, community disorganisation, economic poverty, residence and disadvantaged neighbourhoods. And that is what my colleague, the Member for George Town and the Minister, as well as our Government, is working diligently to improve the housing in this country, because it can lead to what we see here today: Feeling unsafe in neighbourhoods, high crime neighbourhoods, and neighbourhood physical disorder. And that is why the Dart Cayman Partnership is another positive move by the Government, to build our communities and put parks throughout our neighbourhoods. And yes, "neighborhood youth in trouble."

And finally, they looked at the peers and did a risk analysis. They found that the risk factors were in association with antisocial aggressive delinquent peers. Know where your children are and what company they are keeping. Be a real parent. Association with gang involved peers and relatives. And yes, sometimes even families will need to be cut off in order to save a young child. Look at the gang membership. See who they BBM. "Peer and Alcohol Drug Use", Madam Speaker.

They also came up with a strategy, Madam Speaker. And that is what we are going to ask later today. They came up with a strategy that I believe could work here; a community-based policing strategy that was field tested in five districts in Chicago. They called it the CAPS Programme [Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy]. How appropriate.

They had officers . . . and my friend from North Side would like this, Madam Speaker, and my friend from East End: **"Officers in all districts and on all beats were instructed to work with neighbourhood residents to identify chronic local crime problems and to devise solutions for them."** Not just to drive through in air-conditioned new fast police cars.

"The views of the local residents were expressed" and heard, Madam Speaker **"through district-level advisory committees and monthly public meetings. The first survey took place during April and May 1993."**

And the respondents were interviewed again 18 months later as a follow-up. They measured the changes in the perceptions of crime. And the evaluation, Madam Speaker, revealed that evidence of improvement in every programmed area compared much better than those districts in other parts of the United States which did not have the CAPS Programme.

Perhaps the Commissioner may come today and say that we are going to be introducing it here in Cayman.

The evaluators gave an "excellent" rating to the Programme. And indeed it went on to say that a manual is available so that other communities can utilise it on implementing programmes based on the CAPS model. We don't have to reinvent the wheel, Madam Speaker.

The Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy tackled the risk and the protective factors. They tackled the social cohesion; the community instability; the low community attachment and high mobility; the lack of community services and resources (which is not the case in Cayman). They tackled the drug trade and substance abuse, Madam Speaker. And, Madam Speaker, I am taking the time to go through this because as Cabinet Members the greater public would not have heard our Honourable Premier on numerous occasions [who] asked for a taskforce, asked what

other resources was needed, gave them as recent as Tuesday, in excess of \$1 million.

And when we go in today I am sure we will hear more statistics and will be compared to other jurisdictions. So I am taking the time to show that it does not take much effort to find strategies and alternatives. It just takes the will by those who have to implement them. In fact, they found that what worked was to push the authority and accountability, and that is what we are seeking to do by this Motion here today.

They found that they were to use beat teams to do local problem solving. What happens in London, Madam Speaker, does not necessarily work here. As my friend, the Minister of Education said, we are an Overseas Territory but we are influenced significantly by America. So, we need to look to the US. There is no embarrassment. Not because there was a Boston Tea Party that we cannot look to the great United States to see how they resolve some of their problems, Madam Speaker.

They trained beat team officers in effective problem solving. They hired a civilian staff to coordinate community outreach and involvement. They created district advisory committees. And our Honourable Premier has done district councils for what is given to us under the Constitution. Why could the police not do the same thing, Madam Speaker, so that the districts could be involved into the neighbourhood policing rather than cut back policing and to prioritise it in other area, including some of the cars I see driving up and down the streets?

Madam Speaker, that is essential. But you could have a Rolls Royce out there, if you do not get the police into the neighbourhoods, into the communities, talking with the members of our community and showing that there is a level of trust that we can feel safe to give that information, then it is going to escalate, Madam Speaker.

Their strategies where in 1996 the Strategic Inspection Taskforce was put in place: Why could that not be looked at here? There was a Drug and Gang House Enforcement Section where they went around and found all of the derelict houses. They brought in the Department of Environmental Health, Social Services, Police, and they brought in a legal person so that they could train the tenants and the landlords in their rights. And when they did not adhere to the guidelines they shut them down and flushed them out. There needs to be a flushing out of the criminals here.

In fact, in Chicago the police had the boldness and the confidence that they met with the gang leaders and sat down and said, *We know where you are, we are going to flush you out and this is your opportunity to be put on notice.* So, they did not have any excuse.

Here we see a bunch of statistics and press conferences that are nice and ritzy. Madam Speaker, I am sorry but I am speaking as I found it. We have po-

licemen who are now afraid of the criminals because they too have families, Madam Speaker. And they are not getting the level of weaponry and training.

I heard in Fosters two police talking last week and having a big joke. As a matter of fact, I am not sure if they know that I heard their conversation, but I did. They were summoned to do training for batons and wanted to find out who had to train how to use a stick. They wanted training with firearms, with the art of negotiation and conflict resolutions and other things which are needed in this sophisticated crime area.

Madam Speaker, if time permitted I would deal in detail with the level of organised crime. No one can tell me that what is happening in Cayman is not organised crime. Who the organisers are, the jury is still out, Madam Speaker. But you hear two persons did this, two persons did that, and it is no longer between one-and-five o'clock in the morning, Madam Speaker. In fact, we just heard the helicopter overhead the Parliament and we were told that maybe there was another crime in the proximity of this building. When you deal with organised crime, unless you nip it in the bud, as the Honourable Premier and our Members here are going to try to do today by sitting . . . Even the Bible says, Madam Speaker, **“Come, let us reason together.”**

We have come out of that Colonial era where the natives cannot think. Madam Speaker, we have come out of that era. We have some of the brightest persons, not only sitting in here, but within our legal fraternity, within just clubs, our social clubs, our football clubs who are out there and can give information. But instead, Madam Speaker, we spend more time creating an office called (I think) the “Police Complaints,” the “Vision,” or whatever, investigating police. You could do that, Madam Speaker, when the only crime was riding without a bicycle, but not when you are having murders and robberies and all the nonsense that is going on in Cayman now, Madam Speaker.

Enough is enough, Madam Speaker! Police strategies ought to reduce citizens' fear of crime. And I want to just deal with this quickly. Again, there is research, there are police foundations. It says: **“The research summarized demonstrates that strategies police can use”** and I am happy to give it to the Commissioner **“to reduce levels of perceived crime and disorder, reduces attendant fear, heightens satisfaction with police services and neighbourhoods, and, in some cases, reduces crime itself.”**

“[While crime is a major problem in many cities], citizen fear of crime often exceeds actual risk of being victimized. This fear produces a fortress mentality.”

That is where we are among residents. **“It makes citizens suspicious of one another . . .”** Is that the objective, Madam Speaker? **“And it erodes the sense of community upon which neighbour-**

hood life depends. Ultimately, it can result in urban decay and flight from our cities.”

We heard the Leader of the Opposition having to worry that that is what could happen with George Town if it was not arrested.

This I found interesting: **“Police departments have often tried to reduce citizens' fear of crime by minimizing the amount of crime reported.”** God forbid, I won't say anymore on that, Madam Speaker.

In 1982 there was yet another experiment, and God knows we don't need the crime reduction here to be an experiment. But the National Institute of Justice awarded the Police Foundation . . . and this is where I believe the private sector and the businesses can partner with our police. Form a foundation so that there can be extra funds to meet any gaps that there would be. They studied to reduce the citizens' fear of crime, improve the quality of neighbourhood life, and increased citizens' satisfaction with the police service.

Oh what a wonderful achievement that would be if we could only satisfy those three goals and objectives. In fact, in New York and in Houston, another study was done and it stressed the exchange of quality, and that is where we are lacking, Madam Speaker, why we are losing so many cases, and why so many murders are on the street free today; the exchange of quality information between the police and its citizens.

[They] addressed signs of social disorder and physical deterioration in selected neighbourhoods. They did that, Madam Speaker, not by getting on a computer, but guess what? By [doing] door to door visits.

Community Newsletters—a neighbourhood community service centre: foot patrol, bus checks or car checks and other enforcement efforts to reduce the visible signs of crime. And one that I found interesting is that they talked to other agencies, Customs and Immigration and Prison to see how they could deter and reduce crime. In fact (and this is most interesting when we talk about statistics), they too had a problem of cell phones in prisons—sound familiar?—where organised crime was being run from even within the prison and instilling fear outside our prisons. I have been hearing all sorts of strategies that were going in place but yet you can still hear from time to time, them being participants on talk shows.

Madam Speaker, Northward Prison should be a prison. When I was growing up, if people heard that they had to go to Jamaica, that alone was a deterrent for them to not commit the crime. But I can also tell you that I was by Cable and Wireless (I won't call the individual's name, from the Brac), and he came to me and asked for money as well. I told him, no, because I knew he had a drug habit. And he told me he was going to get a brick and break the Cable and Wireless telephone booth glass so that he could go to Northward because he would not have to pay rent and he could get food.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: That is the problem.

Deputy Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Conolly: That is the problem!

There is no fear of the police. There is no fear of their authority. They have no respect for politicians. They do not fear the pastors. They have no respect for the teachers, and they don't even know that there is a God because that is a 'no-no' anymore.

So where is this going to stop? Where is it going to stop, Madam Speaker? It is a serious thing to ponder, Madam Speaker.

“[In sum, research] shows that if police officers work harder at talking and listening to citizens, they can reduce citizen fear of crime, and, in some cases, reduce crime itself. [And importantly,] police departments can initiate these strategies without increasing their budgets.” And I have been here long enough, Madam Speaker, [to hear] that every time crime escalates it is because they don't have enough money. Use the resources which are there now. Reprioritise, re-examine their policies and see how they can best get a grip on crime here in Cayman, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, we also see that serious organised crime has a very devastating harm to our communities. We are feeling the effect of it. The Honourable Premier has worked extremely hard in getting our economy out of the doldrums. And it would be all in vain if we sit back and not get together as 15 parliamentarians here today, to make this most unprecedented move in summoning the police and His Excellency the Governor to see what is really going on and how they plan to solve this problem.

I know His Excellency the Governor has a keen interest in what is going on. He is one of the few Governors who has come to this country and made it his priority to meet with the people and deal with them on their level and to be as local as he can. If you see him at the Farmer's Market you would think he was one of us, Madam Speaker. But the time has come that we all now have to play a role. We need to provide a strategic focus for tackling serious organised crime and to ensure that there is a coordinated and targeted action.

Organised crime is just not we see with lotteries and casinos. Madam Speaker, it involves more than one person. It means controlling, planning and use of specialist resources, it has causes or the potential to cause significant harm and it involves benefit to the individual concerned, particularly for financial gain. That's where we are today, Madam Speaker. They are no longer breaking in just because it is an adrenaline high or it is a kick or they are out on a spree; it is for financial gain. It is being planned.

And young people here in Cayman, Madam Speaker, have seen so much television (as my friend from Bodden Town, the Second Elected Member intimated earlier), images of serious organised crime and

the lavish lifestyles. This has created in my respectful view, Madam Speaker, an illusion that serious organised crime is glamorous. However, there is nothing glamorous about stealing from families and friends to run and fund a drug addiction, or trafficking of young women for their purposes, or even prostitution—which is in Cayman whether we want to admit it or not.

Madam Speaker, we need to provide policies that will result in alternatives for our young people to divert them away from the crime. And I believe the Ministers responsible have been doing a good job. But we cannot get into the operation, and that is why we are calling on them today to tell us—tell us now that they have gotten the clearest mandate from all 15 Members—how they are going to solve crime in this country.

Having read much history (probably not as much as you, Madam Speaker), I also know that when you dare to stand up against the establishment you can easily be set up—it is not a fantasy or a fallacy—you could be ridiculed, you could have a commission of enquiry, you could have everything in the world, including going to prison. But there are some things in this life, Madam Speaker, that are worth not only fighting for, but dying for—the peace, the tranquility, and the serenity of this country that we have been born in and hope to die in. Well, in my case, hope to go up the Rapture, Madam Speaker.

We are putting all and sundry on notice today that enough is enough! A different approach must be sought. And it is no longer a PPM thing or a UDP thing; it is a Caymanian thing. Long live those bold Members in this House today who have decided to put politics on a stay-cation and get this country back where we know it can be.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Deputy Premier.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause] Does any other Member wish to speak?

Fourth Elected Member for West Bay.

Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks, Fourth Elected Member for West Bay: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I too rise to support this very important Motion which is on the Floor of the House. Madam Speaker, so far the Motion has been covered extensively so I won't bore you with tedious repetition.

The Speaker: Thank you.

[laughter]

Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks: However, there are certain points that I will have to repeat.

Madam Speaker, the Commissioner of Police cannot expect to do the same thing over and over and over and get different results. His strategy which he has been using for the last couple of years is not

working. He has to change, because we as Caymanians cannot, and will not, live in this state of fear that we have found ourselves in, Madam Speaker. The Commissioner needs to change his strategies if he expects to get different results.

Women are afraid to go outside at night, men are afraid to go outside at night. This is not the Cayman in which we grew up. This is not the Cayman that we know, and, Madam Speaker, we will not settle until we have some peace of mind that we can move around and do the things we are accustomed to doing without being in this state of fear.

Madam Speaker, the security companies . . . every two or three weeks there is a new security company. They are so busy because of this spate of crime and those are the only ones who I can say are benefiting from it. Meanwhile, the Caymanians are shaking in their shoes because they do not know where the next murder is going to be, the next armed robbery is going to be. In fact, I just got a text that one just happened a few minutes ago on Bodden Road here in George Town. So, Madam Speaker, we cannot and will not continue on like this. This is not the Cayman we are accustomed to.

Madam Speaker, once we lose our safe environment and we lose our tourism, we also lose our financial investors. What then, Madam Speaker? We have nowhere else to go. This is our home and these are the two main pillars of our economy. If we lose those we will go back to the days of mosquitoes—and I am sure no one wants to do that. Madam Speaker, this is our home, we have to do whatever it takes to keep it safe. First and foremost, Madam Speaker, we as Caymanians must feel safe and be safe in our own Islands.

Madam Speaker, with those few words I give this Motion my wholehearted support. Thank you so much.

The Speaker: Thank you, Fourth Elected Member for West Bay.

Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? If not, I will call on the Mover of the Motion to conclude the debate.

Honourable Premier.

The Premier: Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I want to thank all Members for concerns raised. Certainly, Members have, as I thought, would take the time to put their feelings on the record.

Madam Speaker, I have noted in particular a lot that has been said, particularly the Deputy Premier's thoughts. But I want to thank my colleagues on this side for their valuable input, and for those Members on the other side who spoke to this Bill.

Madam Speaker, I could very well sit down, but I think that the Leader of the Opposition needs to be answered. And the Leader of the Opposition is

that—the leader of the opposition to all things. And so he could not help himself to try to cloud the efforts that I am trying for. He said that he was vindicated. Well, he would say that. He needs to do that to put some salve on his bruises that he took this past week.

Madam Speaker, this Motion is because our group felt from several weeks ago that matters must be addressed now. The Opposition's irresponsible action the other day in trying to make one and all believe that I, as the Premier, am responsible for the rise in crime because we did not do anything, Madam Speaker, it is just that, the height of irresponsibility.

The Governor goes on the radio and he says the Governor is responsible for National Security, and the Governor tells people that.

Madam Speaker, I read a list of response methods that the Commissioner is talking about. Well, where does the Leader of the Opposition think the support for that came from? Certainly, it was not him! It was from us! The other action I read out that would need to be done . . . where is the support for that? It will come from us, the Government.

But you see, Madam Speaker, the public understands his plight, the politics he is playing. He wants to be the Premier, so he will continue to be as irresponsible as he ever was. Let him understand, and the Members here had better understand, Madam Speaker, I have asked in the past for a hard action task force, because I campaigned on that, to hit where it hurts, and I do so here again today. But if we bring the Governor and the Commissioner here and they don't agree, well what then?

Because of the Constitution that the Leader of the Opposition gave these Islands, we have no way of forcing them. What are we going to do then? No way because of the Constitution. So, he would love for all the public to take his position, and he certainly has supporters who want to be Members of this House. But he can't fool all of the people. It is a fact; he can't fool all of the people.

You see, Madam Speaker, the masses can't see and can't hear all that I do for the good and try to do. They don't because much has to be done in government offices where they do not see—not here. But I thought that we should come here and demand, and certainly that is what was demanded of me by my caucus. The masses can't see when we do the work in the government offices. And they can't see what is going on.

The Opposition are on *CNS* daily. They are on *Rooster* two times per week, and the radio show host is there with nothing good to say. So, no matter, Madam Speaker, what I or any Minister or the community is doing, because of the vitriolic and hate being spewed from those sources, people will come to a belief that it is the Premier who is responsible. So, it is me who is targeted. It is me and my family who are threatened and cursed and accused. The Leader of the Opposition continues with that damaging irrespon-

sibility so that my life can be threatened. But hear me today: Ride the back of the tiger, reap the whirlwind.

I give [to] Churches. Whether we like them or not, positiveness and goodness prevail there in everyone. But I am criticised. We give scholarships to children who would not normally have a chance. The Leader of the Opposition berates me for that. I am trying to get jobs and so is my Cabinet. And they accuse me for that. And we are trying to save homes and get parks for children and our life is threatened for trying to go forward with that. Well go ahead, Mr. Leader of the Opposition. Go ahead! One day it could be you.

Madam Speaker, for these Members and those persons who believe that the Order which abolished capital punishment was in our best interests, then ask what do the criminal elements have to be scared about. If they believe that the present Constitution will do us the good that is now needed, then why are we having such a problem as we have? Madam Speaker, we will wait and will see when we call His Excellency the Governor and the Commissioner of Police to hear what they have to say.

Madam Speaker, I heard the Leader of the Opposition say that something happened after Hurricane Ivan. I don't know if anything happened after Hurricane Ivan. I think after Hurricane Ivan, Caymanians were never more together. But somehow we forgot that. After the hurricane I saw more courtesies. I saw people getting together who never got together in their lives. All that, Madam Speaker! But, if they think it is after a hurricane that people will steal if they don't have anything . . . there are elements, Madam Speaker, who, when pushed with their backs against the wall and can't go any further, they will steal.

My mother taught me to not take anything from anybody. She taught me not to beg, even. If we went out and begged we got a flogging for it because we were not supposed to do that. But as a politician I have to beg—beg for a vote, beg for things for our constituents. But there are many people who do not do that. They don't beg. But people are being pushed against the wall. Their backs are against the wall in many instances. That is why it is an all-out drive to have a better economy, Madam Speaker, because for the last 40-odd years we have been used to the good. This is the first time that we are facing this sort of situation we are facing today. We never had it to face with really. And there are several reasons why.

As I said, if anyone believes that when we had capital punishment on the books that was not a deterrent, they are making a sad mistake. Go back and look at the records, go back and look at the situation when we had capital punishment on the books. People were scared of something. They were scared of something. They knew it would be an eye for an eye. They knew that. And the day the United Kingdom took it away, then it was a free-for-all and nobody now has

any compunction, it seems like, to threaten or come after you.

No! It's not after the hurricane. If they think that is so, Madam Speaker, just get Brent Fuller's report on the Dominos robbery—["I Do Regret it"](#)—and read it. And if someone told you, as he said, that that 19-year-old was a convicted armed robber, we would hardly believe it. Read that report. It is probably the fairest report I ever saw him write because he told the story, I believe, without blemish.

What did she say, that young lady? **"I was a good girl, got good marks in school and I had a scholarship to college"** she said, adding that she has lost that opportunity now. She was struggling at the time of the robbery to find work. She is still looking for a job at the moment and has most recently participated in the Government's internship programme at the Customs Department.

"All four teens involved in the case were 17 when they planned and executed the robbery that netted a grand total of \$366 and two litres of soda, according to court records. The young man waited outside in the getaway car while [Ms. Avila] and two of her friends entered the store. [Prosecutors] said a machete was held to the throats of two pizza shop employees and they were forced to hand over the money."

"The four were arrested about two weeks after the robbery."

"None of the four had previous convictions and all wrote letters to the court expressing remorse about what they had done."

She said that she did not need the money but another girl she was living with at the time was having financial problems. She said, **"We were more trying to help out a friend in a sense."**

"It's not like we weren't looking for a job...we had even applied at Hurley's a week previous, but we just wasn't having no luck."

She said, **"Everybody thinks we sat down and planned this for days and 'we're going do like this', no, no, no,"** she said. **"As of that morning [I was] just laying down on the couch watching TV."**

It started out as a joke. **"It was like a joke to me, 'oh, it would be fun if we could rob a bank for millions',"** she said. **"But when I was actually outside the Domino's masked with the machete I was like 'oh my God.' I couldn't even go in and the next girl she was like 'we can't stay out here, we got masks and machete. We gotta go inside'."**

"I don't know how people can do that because [before the robbery] I couldn't feel my legs, I couldn't feel my hands. I just remember running in there, running out, quarters dropping from me – that's all I remember."

Read the report.

Madam Speaker, our community is at a desperate stage, and I have been saying this for a while. For those who are out there trying to stop us from get-

ting an economy kick-started, and they have done a good job of it for the last 16 months, Madam Speaker, they are doing wrong and untellable damage to this country. Don't make anybody believe that what is happening here is that these are imported criminals. That is the first thing we want to jump up and say. *Oh, they are Jamaicans or somebody else!* We want to lay the blame. These are our own people!

When the economy is down in a country that knew of no want for the last 40 years, when an economy is down and people cannot buy lunch for their children and are used to giving that child \$5, you might say, *Well, those were misplaced priorities.* Or, *They didn't know what they were doing.* But that is what the order of the day was. They could buy them any pair of Keds, or pair of shoes or sneakers. And maybe they should not have been doing that to the extent I saw some doing, but they could do it. Caymanians could run to jobs back and forth—they would go to one today, and tomorrow they would go to another one. We had it made.

Understand that conditions and situations have changed! Understand that the world economy that we knew is gone forever! Understand that we need to do something here to help ourselves and welcome people that can help us, because the day when people cannot have money—good people, like that young girl . . . Never mind the criminal elements because we know we have them and we always did. All we ever did was to blame somebody else for some of it. We never accepted that some were our own! *Not my child! Not my grandchild!* Wouldn't do it!

And those of us that . . . Not me, I'm long past that stage. But those of you, who get up here and postulate, don't want to say the right things, as I heard my colleague, the Fourth Elected Member for George Town, expound on. You would rather get up and blame McKeeva Bush rather than say, *Look parents, this is what it takes!* These are the hard, cold facts. You don't want to blame them. You don't want to blame the situation. You don't want to say it is some of ours; you would rather say it is Jamaicans, you would rather say it is somewhere else because you don't want to lose votes. Well, we have it square in our lap and we now have to deal with it.

Madam Speaker, Members have spoken and they seem determined to get matters changed. Well, let us see. Understand this: Look at the Constitution. They come here and they told us, *We don't believe that you are right and, therefore, this task force* (or what we are asking in this Motion) *can't be had. We believe that we are on the right track . . .* and some of what they are doing is right. Some of what you all have said here today is right. But I ask you, what then? What are you going to do?

Colleagues, what are you going to do then?

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Form our own and fund it.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: We will wait and see.

The task force that I see demands, Mr. Member for North Side, fire power. But we can't authorise that no matter how much we vote here. We can vote funds because we are the House, and I have asked you to do that, and I know that you are determined to do that. But when it comes to other things, we don't have the say.

So, no matter how much the Leader of the Opposition gets up and tries to make people believe it is me . . . and now I have to take precautions for myself because of the things that he has been saying. And let me just tell you that I have been threatened, so I will take those precautions—because this is not the Cayman that I grew up in. This is not the Cayman that I grew up in. So, you would be fool-fool not to take advice.

You can grumble but I hope you have listened to what I have had to say, Mr. Leader of the Opposition. You will do anything to stand where I am. But, you ride the back of the tiger; you will reap the whirlwind.

Madam Speaker, the Motion is there and we have two choices: We can adjourn now, or not adjourn but suspend, and I will call His Excellency the Governor, and I will call the Commissioner of Police, and we will take that. And then it depends on what they say, we can come back and complete the Motion because Members might want as a strategy to leave the Motion open for a further amendment. I am willing to do that, depending on what Members feel.

[inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: The—

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Maybe it is the wise strategy to suspend and we call His Excellency the Governor and the Commissioner of Police, and have a discussion with them, and if it goes as we want, then if we are satisfied we will come back and take the vote on the Motion. If not, if Members want to—and I have that feeling from this side—then we would have that opportunity. Up to you!

Madam Speaker, I believe maybe silence gives consent gives approval for what I am suggesting. Silence would give consent.

The Speaker: Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, that seems a sensible course; that we reserve the opportunity to come back and decide what we do after we have had the discussion with His Excellency and the Commissioner of Police.

The Speaker: So we will leave the debate on the Motion open at this time and should not conclude it?

[laughter]

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: No. Well, if you could leave it as the Premier has not finished his winding-up, so that he can make the changes. Leave it, as you have not finished your winding-up. Take the suspension in the middle of your wind-up speech so that—

[inaudible interjection]

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Right.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Suspend?

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Yes, yes.

[inaudible interjections]

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Yes, if you finish your wind-up then we can't come back.

The Speaker: We are going to suspend the House at this time for the Members of the House to meet with His Excellency the Governor and the Commissioner of Police. We will resume proceedings after that.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, we should thank you for sitting there all day.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Yes!

The Speaker: They underestimate me in this community.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: I know you, though!

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: Madam Speaker, through you to the Premier. I wonder if it would be appropriate to have Madam Speaker join us in this thing.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Ah—

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: No, save her, and if this is going to get very hot put it *[inaudible]*

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Well, I don't know what Members plan to do. I think Members are saying 'no'.

The Speaker: I don't have a problem with not being there. I would trust you gentlemen to do the job.

An Hon. Member: Remember there is an order of precedence.

The Speaker: But if you need another woman you can call me. Thank you.

Proceedings suspended at 3.53 pm

[Members met with His Excellency the Governor and the Commissioner of Police on the Matter of Urgent Public Importance on Crime.]