

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
WEDNESDAY
14 DECEMBER 2011
11.06 AM
Fourth Sitting

[The Speaker: I call on the Fourth Elected Member of West Bay to say prayers this morning.

PRAYERS

Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks: 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: Proceedings are resumed. Please be seated.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OR AFFIRMATIONS

Oath of Allegiance
[administered by the Clerk]

Hon. Franz Manderson, Temporary First Official Member: I, Franz Manderson, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, according to law so help me God.

The Speaker: On behalf of this honourable House, I welcome the Honourable Temporary First Official Member, and invite him to take his seat.

Disrespect to Chair

The Speaker: Before we sit, I have noticed the disrespect that is shown to this Chair repeatedly when certain Members of this House refuse to bow. It is a matter of courtesy, and a matter of respect—respect to yourselves and to this Chair.

I will repeat the process now and I hope I will see all Members comply.

Thank you all very much.

Please be seated.

READING BY THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF MESSAGES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

The Speaker: I have a letter from the Honourable Michael Adam this morning advising that he will be absent from the Legislative Assembly due to the passing of his mother. He wanted me to convey thanks on his behalf to all Members of the Legislative Assembly for the kind words during this difficult time.

As Speaker, I would like to add my sincere sympathies and those of my staff to [the Honourable Minister of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing] and his family at this time. I invite the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition to do the same.

Obituary Speeches

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I want to publicly in this medium express our sincerest condolences to our colleague, Minister of Community Affairs, on the passing of his good mother.

Madam Speaker, your mother is, perhaps, your best friend. I do recall when I sat down with Mr. Adam to talk about politics. The one person he consulted was his mother, the matriarch of that family, and a well-known personality in these Islands. A grand lady, in fact; one who did not fear to speak her mind regardless of where or what that was on. I remember having a discussion with her about the Honourable Minister's involvement politically. She said she never took to those things, although she spoke her mind. But she was going to be behind her son

more, she said, than a thousand percent. She felt that he could do as well as anyone else.

She was a grand lady, a great cook. I remember Ms. Olga's fruitcakes and her pies. She was a fantastic lady and Cayman has seen a loss of one of our foremost citizens. George Town has seen the loss of another good citizen.

We seem to be losing quite a few of our womenfolk, who, in their times stood up to various battles, various ideas and they didn't fear to speak their minds and to stand when they had to. So I think it is appropriate that we all stand in respect of the passing of the mother of Minister Adam.

I would appreciate it if we could just take that stand. The Opposition will voice their opinion, I suppose they will do because that's their constituent as well, but after that I would ask that we rise in a matter of respect.

The Speaker: Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

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

Madam Speaker, I join voice with you and with the Premier in expressing our heartfelt condolences to Minister Adam and to his brother Billy and brother Timmy on the loss of Mrs. Olga, the grand old lady that all of us, I think, knew quite well. I certainly knew her quite well, and, as the Premier said, she was known for her outspokenness and her baking skills.

I have benefitted myself from some of her Christmas fruitcakes over the years. I have known of her all my life and her loss will be felt in the community and certainly in the church community, particularly, the Agape Church where she was a stalwart for many years.

I can only say to Minister Adam and to his brothers that, no matter how long you have your mother, the more difficult it is to deal with their passing. I had mine for many years, and there is no day in my life that I do not miss her presence. I often find myself saying, *Oh, I need to tell mommy this . . .* and then just for a split second I realise she isn't there for me to tell, or to ask her opinion or view on. So it is a loss, it is a void that we never quite fill, but you have to give God thanks for his grace in lending them to you for as long as my mother was lent to me, and for as long as Mrs. Olga was lent to her boys.

I have already extended condolences to Minister Adam and the rest of them privately on behalf of myself and the other Members of the Opposition, and indeed, on behalf of the Independent Member for North Side (who may himself wish to say something when I sit down), I do so now publicly and ask for God's continued guidance in their lives and for their abiding faith in Him to sustain them in this most difficult of times.

The Speaker: Member for North Side.

[no audible reply]

The Speaker: Shall we stand for a moment of silence?

[The House rose for a moment of silence in honour of the late Mrs. Olga Adam]

The Speaker: Thank you all very much.
Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Apology

The Speaker: I also need to convey apologies on behalf of the Honourable Deputy Premier who is unavoidably absent this morning. She had some very serious matters to take care of overseas.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS

Cayman Islands Government Financial Statements (Unaudited) of the Portfolio of Finance and Economics for the years ending 30 June 2006, 2007 and 2008

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Cayman Islands Government Financial Statements (Unaudited) of the Portfolio of Finance and Economics for the years ending 30 June 2006, 2007 and 2008.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak thereto?

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: No, Madam Speaker. These are all unaudited financial statements, so I wouldn't know what to say about them.

Tax Information Authority (Tax Information Agreements) (No. 2) Order, 2011

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House, the Tax Information Authority (Tax Information Agreements) (No. 2) Order, 2011.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Does the Honourable Minister wish to speak thereto?

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, I have a motion before the House. This is one of the typical agreements that we have to table by law. So, that will be done later in the course of the agenda.

The Speaker: Thank you.

**Annual Report 1st January 2010–30th June 2011—
Cayman Islands Anti-Corruption Commission**

The Speaker: Honourable Attorney General.

Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin, Second Official Member: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg leave of this honourable House to lay on the Table the Annual Report 1st January 2010–30th June 2011—Cayman Islands Anti-Corruption Commission

The Speaker: So ordered.

Does the Honourable Attorney General wish to speak thereon?

Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: Thank you, Madam Speaker, just by way of introducing the report to say that this is the first such report under the law. The law actually came into force in January 2010. So, this report covers the relevant period as noted on page 1 of the actual report itself, where the Chair mentioned that it should be noted that the content of this report covers all work from 1 January 2010 to 30 June 2011.

He has also pointed out that whilst the commission is up and running there remains a significant degree of work ahead, work that is envisaged as continually evolving according to the development of the commission and the intake of diverse reports and so on. As a result of that, Madam Speaker, they remain cognisant that the training is pertinent in sustaining the efficiency and effectiveness of the operation.

So, Madam Speaker, I certainly commend the report to honourable Members.

**STATEMENTS BY HONOURABLE
MEMBERS AND MINISTERS
OF THE CABINET**

The Speaker: I have notice of one statement by the Honourable Premier.

**Reasons for modification pursuant to section
89(3) and (4) of the Constitution**

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, it is my intention to lay before the Legislative Assembly a draft of an Order by His Excellency the Governor for giving effect, with modifications, to the recommendations contained in the Electoral Boundary Commission Report 2010.

The Electoral Boundaries Commission 2010 Report recommended that on the basis of the latest data in the Elections Office Voters Register, in allocating the 18 Members to the Legislative Assembly, there would be six Members in the George Town electoral district, four Members in the West Bay electoral district, four Members in the Bodden Town electoral district, with two Members in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, and one Member each in East End and North Side.

The extent of the proposed modification is that the recommendation by the Commission which contemplated altering the physical boundaries in order to give effect to the three additional seats will not be accepted. Accordingly, the portion of the recommendation for increasing the number of elected members by three seats (two in George Town, and one in Bodden Town) will be accepted.

However, we do not accept any recommended changes to the physical electoral boundaries in order to do so. The reason for refusing to accept that portion of the recommendation is because the electoral district boundaries being proposed by the Commission in its report, if accepted, would (among other things), result in some persons who previously voted in George Town now being required to vote in Bodden Town. The Government can find no support for such a change.

Accordingly, the draft Order that is being proposed to this Legislative Assembly for approval, seeks only approval for an additional three elected members that is, two for the electoral district of George Town, and one for the electoral district of Bodden Town, but no consequential changes to the physical electoral boundaries.

Madam Speaker, this statement supersedes any statement previously made by me to this Legislative Assembly on this issue.

I intend to lay this draft order on the Table now and I give notice of a motion being moved in January, I hope, when the House comes back. So, I lay that draft order on the Table of this honourable House.

The Speaker: So ordered.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Suspension of Standing Order 24(5)

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing

Order 24(5) to enable a Government Motion to be dealt with during the Meeting.

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 46(1) and (2) . . .

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: The suspension order, Madam Speaker, is to do with a motion when we get to that point; the motion for the Tax Information Exchange Agreement between the Cayman Islands and various jurisdictions.

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 24(5) be suspended to enable a Government Motion to be dealt with during the Meeting.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: I think the Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 24(5) suspended.

BILLS

Suspension of Standing Order 46(1) and (2)

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker I beg to move the suspension of Standing Order 46(1) and (2) to enable the Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011 to be given a First Reading.

The Speaker: The question that Standing Order 46(1) and (2) be suspended to enable the Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011 to be given a First Reading.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and Noes.

The Speaker: I think the Ayes have it.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: Perhaps, Madam Speaker, we should have a division please.

The Speaker: Madam Clerk.

The Clerk:

Division No. 25/2011-12

Ayes: 7

Hon. W. McKeever Bush
Hon. Rolston M. Anglin
Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland

Noes: 6

Hon. A. M. McLaughlin, Jr.
Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts
Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell

Hon. Cline A. Glidden
Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks
Mr. Elliot A. Solomon
Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour

Mr. Anthony S. Eden
Mr. V. Arden McLean
Mr. D. Ezzard Miller

Absentees: 2

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly
Hon. Michael T. Adam

The Speaker: The result of the division: Ayes, 7; Noes, 6; and Absentees, 2.

Agreed: Standing Order 46(1) and (2) suspended.

FIRST READING

Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011

The Clerk: The Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011.

The Speaker: The Bill is deemed to have been read a first time and is set down for Second Reading.

Suspension of Standing Order 46(4)

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I beg to move the suspension of Standing Order 46(4) to enable the Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011, to be read a second time.

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 46(4) be suspended to enable the Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011, to be read a second time.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Ayes and Noes.

The Speaker: I think the Ayes have it.

Hon. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Leader of the Opposition: May we have a division again?

There has been no explanation by the Premier, or indeed by the Chair, about how this Bill is being permitted to proceed. It is in breach, or appears to be in breach of the constitutional provision requiring the 21-day notice before the start of this Meeting . . . unless there is an emergency situation, but no explanation has been received.

The Speaker: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, as you well know the Chair has nothing to do with

whether the Bill comes forward or not. That is the Government's business. It comes here from Cabinet. It comes to the Business Committee, in which you sit as a member; you decide what is going to go on the Order Paper for the day, the Order Paper is brought to the House and I preside over the proceedings.

Please do not confuse the public by making them believe that the Speaker has any authority to stop something coming before this House, legislation coming before this House. There is no constitutional authority for that. The Cayman Islands Constitution is very clear. Her Majesty vests her powers in the Governor and the Cabinet.

Please do not confuse the people by making them believe that the Speaker has the authority to stop legislation coming before this House.

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

The Speaker: And I do not wish to be replied to. Please sit down!

[Inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: We have had this discussion. I hear it in the public, I hear it everywhere. Every Member of this House knows better. And those who have been here for these longer periods of time should know even better than the others who just came.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Division.

The Speaker: Please, Madam Clerk, can we have a division?

The Clerk:

Division No. 26/2011-12

Ayes: 7

Hon. W. McKeever Bush
Hon. Rolston M. Anglin
Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland
Hon. Cline A. Glidden
Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks
Mr. Ellio A. Solomon
Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour

Noes: 6

Hon. A. M. McLaughlin, Jr.
Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts
Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell
Mr. Anthony S. Eden
Mr. V. Arden McLean
Mr. D. Ezzard Miller

Absentees: 2

Hon. Juliana Y, O'Connor-Connolly
Hon. Michael T. Adam

The Speaker: The result of the division: Ayes, 7; Noes, 6; and Absentees, 2.

Agreed: Standing Order 46(4) suspended.

SECOND READING

Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011

The Clerk: The Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011.

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

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

It should be quite obvious to all why we are asked to amend the Music and Dancing (Control) Law.

Madam Speaker, New Year's Eve this year falls on a Saturday. And, as a tourist destination . . .

Madam Speaker, out of an abundance of caution, I had better move the actual Bill. And so I move the Second Reading of the Music and Dancing (Control) Amendment Bill, 2011.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly moved. Does the mover wish to speak thereto?

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm sorry about that.

Madam Speaker, as I was saying, the New Year's Eve this year will fall on a Saturday. As a business community, one that depends on tourism as its second largest part of the economy, in particular at a time when we are suffering tremendously in the economy, at a time when people come to celebrate, the hours of licensing does not permit to go beyond midnight, or quarter to. In most instances it would be 11.45.

What this Bill is actually doing is that whenever New Year's Eve falls on a Saturday we give the Board discretion—it is not this House, it is the Board—to make a change to the hours. The Board may very well say that they are not minded to change. But I believe it is right to give them that discretion. And that is what this Bill is all about.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister.
Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I should say (and I do this with your indulgence, of course, and I have circulated an amendment) I intend to change the wording there from "any day" to (substituting the words) "whenever New Year's Eve falls on a Saturday."

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister.
Does any other Member wish to speak?
Leader of the Opposition.

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

Madam Speaker, it would have been enlightening if the Premier had advised this House when it did finally occur to him and to the Government that Christmas Day and New Year's Day was going to fall on Sunday this year. That, Madam Speaker, obviously is a matter that just occurred to the Government. Otherwise, I don't know why we would be dealing with this Bill, 10 days before Christmas and on the basis that this is some emergency which the Government could not have had in its contemplation before the start of this Meeting.

Madam Speaker, this is but one more example of Government-by-crisis. For the life of me, I do not understand why we have to breach the Constitution, why we have to breach the Standing Orders to have a matter like this dealt with.

Madam Speaker, in yesterday's *Caymanian Compass* there was a report that the Liquor Licensing Board has, pursuant to the authority that it has under the Liquor Licensing Law, extended serving hours on Friday nights for bars, restaurants and night clubs in Grand Cayman and also, pursuant to that, allowing bars and restaurants to serve alcohol up until 1.30 am; nightclubs to do so up until 2.45 am on Friday nights.

Now, this Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill would appear to be some sort of companion legislation to also allow music and dancing to occur for that extended period. But this goes further, in that it is proposing that music and dancing also be allowed on what were hitherto known as the "prohibited days," that is Christmas Day and Good Friday.

Madam Speaker, whatever one's view is on that, and we have always operated in Cayman on the basis that officially the Sabbath day is Sunday (for the majority of people), and that Christmas Day and Good Friday are holy days, and therefore we did not allow merrymaking to occur into those hours. Now, whatever view one takes about that and whether or not in this day and age those are things that as a community we can continue to justify, this I know: That a matter like this ought to have been the subject of public discussion and debate before we proceed in this House with indecent haste, as we are doing today, to make this fundamental change to the legislation and, indeed, to the nature and character of this community.

Madam Speaker, I think it is another example of Government-by-crisis, by the Government just operating on a knee-jerk basis in response to issue like this, which have been around for a long, long time. So, Madam Speaker, on that basis alone, we certainly cannot support the Bill.

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

Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

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

I will not breathe hell and damnation, as some people have suggested; it is just the principle that I live by and that I personally am not convinced that this is the best thing to do. My concern, Madam Speaker, is that many of the accidents we have seen lately have been in these wee hours of the morning. Naturally, accidents do happen.

But I am not in a position to support this. I personally do not go to dances or the nightclubs. That is the right of any free citizen in these Islands to do. But I personally do not support. My belief is that we do not need this and whatever the majority says, so be it.

The Speaker: Thank you Member for Bodden Town, does any other Member wish to speak?

Elected Member for North Side.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller, Member for North Side: Madam Speaker, just to record that I will not be taking part in the debate and that I will be abstaining on the vote because I don't regard the Bill as being constitutionally compliant.

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 very much, Madam Speaker.

Not having had a lot of time to consider the Bill and just having been able to huddle with the Leader of the Opposition and my colleagues, I can only go by what immediately comes to mind and one of the big problems that I foresee, obviously the Government is intent to see the safe passage of this Bill, but when this becomes law, Madam Speaker, when we look in the Memorandum of Objects and Reasons, it states: "**Clause 2 amends section 9 of the principal Law to enable the Liquor Licensing Board to grant permission for dancing and the playing of music, on or in licensed premises, outside of permitted hours on any day, . . .**" And what I consider to be the most important part of the Memorandum of Objects and Reasons is what it now says, "**. . . subject to the condition that the music shall not be heard beyond the boundaries of the property on which it is played.**"

Madam Speaker, I do not know the number of music and dancing licences that have been issued in the Cayman Islands, but I am pretty certain that it is not dozens of them, but hundreds of them. Madam Speaker, it is obvious that enforcement of this section

of the new amended law will have to be done by the police.

Now, whether it is going to be a situation where the police will only act or check if there is a complaint, or whether it is their duty to uphold the law and they have to do the monitoring and checking, and, Madam Speaker, being careful with my choice of words, I believe it is safe comment to say that the police are stretched as it is to do their duty on a daily basis 24/7 here in the Cayman Islands. This, then, becomes in my view an added burden.

As I said before, I do not know how it is going to be looked at, if they will only respond if they can to complaints, or whether they will be looking at it as something that is part and parcel of their regular duties.

I see a great difficulty with them being able to monitor this properly. Madam Speaker, there are many premises which are close to residential areas, whether the residential areas came after the premises or whether the premises came afterwards really matters not, it is what now obtains. And that is the case.

I know there is a situation which does exist with all of these properties that have music and dancing licences. But, Madam Speaker, this speaks to any day. That means any of the 365 days of the year.

[Inaudible interjections]

Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts: Notwithstanding. I will not press that point, then, Madam Speaker, if the Honourable Premier is saying that that is not going to be 365 days a year. He says there is an amendment forthcoming. That's fine; I didn't hear at the time. But, Madam Speaker, it doesn't change the difficulty that I foresee. Perhaps some people see this as (should I just simply say) no big thing; but I have to tell you the truth, I foresee difficulties with it and the police being not only able to monitor this, but to ensure that it is adhered to.

Madam Speaker, there are certain days of the year, and I hope the amendment . . . because, obviously, as I said, the Government intends to make this a reality. I trust the amendment will include the days of the year that we know that are held sacred, not just traditionally, but by all of us who come from this little rock.

So, Madam Speaker, with that difficulty having been expressed, that is the explanation for me personally why I could not support it, although the Opposition, as said by the Leader of the Opposition, has taken a joint position.

Madam Speaker, I would hope that this would be looked at to see the practicalities of it.

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

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

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

Minister of Education.

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

This Bill before the House is one that the Government has taken very seriously in regard to bringing to this Legislative Assembly. In his presentation of the Bill, the Honourable Premier did state that in the past few months when we turned our minds to this issue, there was a view that given the current powers vested in the Liquor Licensing Board under the current Law, that they could, indeed, have given effect to having the variation of licences at their discretion on New Year's Eve, albeit New Year's Eve on a Saturday night.

However, as the Premier said, unfortunately quite recently other views have been put forward in regard as to whether or not that power vested in the Board can indeed be extended when it comes to a Saturday night, therefore, going beyond the stroke of midnight, even though on New Year's Eve, it would then trespass into a Sunday.

Madam Speaker, it is obvious from the presentations made thus far by the Opposition that they are well aware that the Board does indeed have discretionary powers as it relates to operating hours of such establishments. In fact, already quoted was an article in the *Caymanian Compass* [where the Board] has given some general changes to the operating hours of certain establishments, but in particular on a Friday night.

Madam Speaker, when we look at where we are as a society, where we are in terms of the general economy, the fact that we trumpet ourselves to be a modern high-end tourist destination, we must ensure that all that we do is indeed in line with what it is we are touting to the world and what we are trying to sell ourselves as.

The Government is very clear in our understanding of what is happening on the ground in the economy, in particular in the tourism sector, and we clearly understand the necessity to ensure that this discretion is indeed vested to the Liquor Licensing Board. We support the fact that we must enable this country to be able to continue to grow as a tourism destination that is first class and one that is going to allow people to be able to legally make certain choices if they so chose.

Nothing in this Bill creates an obligation on the Liquor Licensing Board to grant a specific request. Nothing in this Bill creates an obligation on the part of licence holders to request any extension. This is going to be up to them and whether or not they believe their clientele are going to be best served by requesting a variation in their licence.

Madam Speaker, perhaps there are times like this where some of the generational differences start to show. Certainly, Madam Speaker, I respect any Member and his or her particular view as it relates to some of these very sensitive, delicate issues. I am appreciative of the words of the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town, who I paraphrase now. I believe he basically said it was not for him, but he could not dictate what other people's choices might be.

I believe, given where we are as a community, and where our economy is, and given where we are trying to get to, I do not see this as an infringement or a trespass that is going to cause this country any major issues as it relates to this one day. And, Madam Speaker, there are seven days in a week. So, this occurrence will only come about every seven years when New Year's Eve will fall on a Saturday night.

Madam Speaker, for a long time there has been a growing population in this community of persons who hold a day other than Sunday as their religious day. So, we have to be very careful in this growing population that we have, and given our makeup as Caymanians with our varying belief systems, that we do not wind up continuing to say that we are going to place greater value on Sunday-keepers, versus Sabbath-keepers (Saturday-keepers).

I have always been very, very cautious about that, Madam Speaker. Very cautious! The last time I checked, in terms of going to any of the churches or conventions, one particular denomination known as a Sabbath-keeper is the Seven Day [Adventist] faith. That has a large following in these Islands. It's significant. Yet somehow, conveniently, there are those who simply because of tradition will want to somehow say that we disregard that because they pick up the Bible and come to a conclusion and do not wind up—

[Inaudible interjection]

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: And don't wind up—

[laughter]

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: —giving the attention that should be given, the due regard that should be given if we are going to go on the number of Caymanians who participate in the different faiths.

Now, there are those who will come behind and say, *Yes, well, you are from that newer generation; you are not from the old schools. And it's you young ones who are causing all these problems in Cayman anyway.* I have lived with that, Madam Speaker, all my life. What I know is, just as I am standing here, and when we congregate, those of us my age, and we look back and look at current high school, and we say, *Oh, high school. We weren't like that.* You know, we really have to get out of that hypo-

critical stance that we take in this country, believing somehow that the next generation coming after us is worse.

I do not know how we are going to build a country in this community. Certainly from the perch that I have been privileged to sit in for these last 11 years I can say that in my humble opinion the single biggest thing, the single biggest contributor to the state of play in our society is hypocrisy. There are too many hypocrites and they dress up in many [types] of clothing—many, many clothing.

An Hon. Member: Oh yes.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: I know this much: Each of us has to do what we believe is morally correct, make those choices and apply them consistently to our own lives versus being so concerned about taking that little look-see into our neighbour's backyard and trying to determine whether or not he or she is going to wind up in heaven or hell.

I know there will be some who will say (and this is the other argument I have heard in the country since I was a little boy, and certainly you hear it louder when you get elected) that yes, you see government shouldn't do certain things, because if government does it then it is going to bring societal damnation. We ignore illegal numbers. We ignore what happens in the corners of the congregation, and those who preside over the congregation know it is happening, but we tell government what they are supposed to do because we are going to bring all this damnation. I don't believe in that, Madam Speaker. I really do not and never have.

In my 11 years [here] there have been quite a number of times that I have taken this stand and said this publicly. I know I am going to pick up my licks and I know there are those who are going to raise up a little storm in a teacup over it. All I can say is that before anyone seeks to see the fault in me or in this Legislative Assembly or in us as elected Members, perhaps the focus ought to be on self and where self is going to go and make those choices accordingly.

Madam Speaker, we must recognise that all of this utopia that we dream of—we want scholarships for our young people. We want to keep one of the most liberal scholarship programmes. We want full and free access to early childhood care and education, to primary education, to secondary education. We want all the benefits to honour our seamen and veterans. We want to ensure that we have social safety nets to take care of people when they may wind up in an unfortunate situation, like losing a job and needed temporary assistance.

We want the very best after-school programmes. We want better healthcare. We do not want out relatives to go to Jamaica, Cuba or anywhere else for healthcare, it must be to North America. We want,

we want, we want. If we want, we have to understand what we have to do to create a vibrant economy to do it.

Life is about choices. And as insignificant as some may seem, we have to recognise that it is all of those little insignificant points, some of which people acclimate to more than others, that collectively make and shape the economy. So, while there may be some who say, *Yes, it's only every seven years, and because it's only every seven years don't bother with it*, it is an important point and it is an important statement about our economic development, but more importantly about people having access to their particular free choice.

Liquor licence holders are going to have to make that decision. The Board is going to then have to make the decision as to whether or not to grant it.

Madam Speaker, an important amendment has been circulated by the Honourable Premier. That amendment seeks to clarify the point made by the First Elected Member for George Town when it says that this particular Bill is going to be dealing only whenever New Year's Eve falls on a Saturday.

Madam Speaker, at present, we need to move forward with this amendment. We need to ensure that the legislative framework is in place; so it is crucially important that we move forward with this particular amendment.

Madam Speaker, it is urgent that we deal with this matter and it is urgent that we get this put into place so that anyone who wishes to access any extended hours can make application and the Board can deal with them.

We know that passage here in the Legislative Assembly is but one step in the process. We have to get this bill accented to and gazetted so that it can become law. The holidays are near and we need to move and move swiftly—and I am certainly not going to apologise for us having to move swiftly at this particular point in time.

The Constitution is quite clear from what I read of it. It talks about how Government is able to not have to comply with the 21-day requirement when there is an emergency. And an emergency, as far as I am aware, is not defined in the Constitution that was promulgated.

Perhaps, Madam Speaker, what we need to do as a Legislative Assembly is to agree that, now that we have had the Constitution in place for 12 months, perhaps as the mature Representatives that the public expects us to be, we should form a small sub-committee of the House for 30 days to take a look at some of the sections we can agree that might need some inconsequential amendments.

Madam Speaker, I certainly do not believe that those theoreticians who trumpeted some of these points, like this one . . . Certainly this was not a point that we on the Government Bench, and certainly

those of us who were in the Opposition at the time, thought was a sensible route for the country to have to go. Ultimately, Madam Speaker, when you start taking a sledge hammer to try to kill fire ants you know that you are going to wind up with lots of damage and lots of unintended consequences. So, Madam Speaker, at the end of the day, I believe, this is one of those sections that really ought not to reside in our Constitution. A Constitution should be about the higher overarching legislative framework under which everything else flows.

Madam Speaker, I also must say that I too have been very, very concerned at the manner in which the Members of the Opposition have chosen to publicly debate the Chair. And we see that continuing even in this Legislative Assembly. Madam Speaker, as far as I am aware, and as far as I am concerned, it is not the Chair's duty to explain to this House why a particular bill is being brought, and is being brought as an emergency. That's for the Government to do. That's for the Minister who is bringing the bill along with his colleagues, to do. That is our job. We are supposed to be the people who get up and say, *Here are the circumstances and here is why we brought the bill and asked for it to be allowed to come to the House. Therefore we put it on the Business Paper and asked for the Business Committee to then decide whether or not it should be allowed onto the Order Paper.*

But, Madam Speaker, you see it is so easy to take advantage in these times because we have so many institutions in this country that are so new; so new that as a community we do not even honour and realise yet just how important they are. And the truth is—the real truth is—that anyone who comes from a modern country and a mature democracy, were to ever listen to us and say to themselves that on average the elected arm of a society should be the more mature and right thinking part of the community and of the society, must really take us for a joke when they listen to the talk show on a Tuesday and a Wednesday. They really must.

Anyone who comes from a mature democracy must say to themselves: *This is it? This is what the Cayman Islands have to offer? This is what is of significance? This is the way in which they chose to deal with and speak about their own Speaker? Their own Chair and their own legislature?* They will say that they have reason and that that is their only avenue. I believe that to be false. I do not believe that the Members of this House who go on talk shows on Tuesdays and Wednesdays have any just cause to treat the Chair of this Legislative Assembly the way they do and to speak about the Chair in the manner in which they do.

As I said, I can't claim to have been here any long, long time. But in 11 years I have gotten to observe and have tried to learn a lot. And really, you

know, it is sad because the truth is, I can't say in my heart of hearts that collectively as a Legislative Assembly that represents the people of this country we have gotten any better in over a decade. I really can't say that.

This Legislative Assembly is only as strong as the weakest of its links. And I really think and hope that for the New Year—which is 17 short days away—that, God willing, some Members of this House will take the holiday season and really reflect. Let's beat each other up, let's beat-up each other's policies. Let's talk about what our solutions are, what our approaches would be, what we would do differently; not in loosey-goosey terms, but specifically what we would do. Let us really try to raise the bar instead of conveniently attacking the Chair time after time after time.

[inaudible interjection]

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Madam Speaker, the manner in which we deal with each other; but the Chair, really, is something that we ought to reflect collectively and try our endeavor best to lift.

Madam Speaker, this Bill should be supported by all Members of the House. I do not believe that there is any Member in the House that really should have any just cause to not support this Bill.

Madam Speaker, I had not gotten an opportunity to speak in the House for a little while so I can say that, certainly, I do not do what some Members have done, which is to sometimes get up and shoot themselves in the foot. I try to ensure and think about what I am going to say and bring pertinent points to the debate before the Legislative Assembly.

We are entering the Christmas Season. We are entering the Holiday Season, let us at least try to do so, on this particular issue, with one voice and let people decide. Let the Board play their role. And let us try to ensure that we impress upon the Board that there should be adequate time put in place to ensure that any establishment that gets access to an extension has to stop serving alcohol, and can only serve non-alcoholic beverages, so that there is a reasonable time for anyone who has consumed who may be going home—and doesn't matter whether they are driving or not because you can be a threat if you are driving, walking, riding a bicycle or doing whatever—that there is adequate time for them to be able to sober up as it were, if they have had a few too many.

I mean that in all seriousness. We must impress upon . . . and that has not been a long standing practice of boards. So we must try to ensure that the Board continues to do that.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Minister of Education.

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

If not, I call on the Honourable Premier to wind up the debate on the Second Reading.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, I consider that my colleague, the Minister of Education, did an excellent job in dealing with the criticisms from the other side.

There are a few things that I want to say, Madam Speaker, and I want to add this caveat to what I have to say: That no one on the other side—*none of them*—loves this country any more than me. None of them! Or, I would go further to say, any Members on this side of the House. I think that we are more upfront because we have to say this is what is needed, and we are not trying to find an excuse to put off everything—as they are finding an excuse to oppose everything.

Madam Speaker, the second thing I want to say is that I am a Sunday worshipper. I am a member of the Wesleyan Holiness Church. All throughout my life, Madam Speaker, I have never forgotten (although I am a Sunday worshipper) that there are people who worship on a Saturday, and I appreciate them. I appreciate their life, how they stick to what they believe for that day, the precepts and principles of their denomination, and their Bible teaching. I have always appreciated the denomination, but I have learned to appreciate them more in my adult years, and, in fact, since I have become a Member of this House, going on more than five terms anyway—I forgot how many [years] it is.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: I hear them say it is too long. Maybe! But as long as some of them are running I am going to have to run.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: *[Addressing inaudible interjection]* Yeah, well you can correct it. You are not God; that is one good thing and that is what I want to tell you.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: I appreciate the fact, Madam Speaker . . . sorry, Madam Speaker, I should not be talking to them, I recognise that. But you know when you start to get heckling from the other side, and as sure as I stand up, that is what they are going to do.

I appreciate how the Adventists have never, ever asked me to pass or not to pass legislation be-

cause of Saturday. Not once! Never once! I appreciate that.

As I said, I am a Sunday worshipper but I recognise that I have to give account to one Being—and that is Almighty God. My life is my life. I respect our pastors and I work with them and with our churches. I am not a deacon or an elder in the church. I participate in praising God and thanking him for what he has done in my life and what he has done in the lives of others. But it is Almighty God that I am accountable to. Me! And perhaps the Leader of the Opposition and the rest of them should give consideration to the same. I hope that I do not hear that the bunch of them were out there at those hours gallivanting and prancing all over the place.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: *[Addressing inaudible interjection]* No, some people don't need that. See, I say I am up front. They can sit when the bar is closed and drink all they want! That's illegal. But because they extended it, it was legal.

So, Madam Speaker, they stop and count what they say. Stop opposing for the sake of opposition. This Bill was sent to them on the 9th of this month and, Madam Speaker, first of all there has been a mix-up. There was a mix-up about this question and some of it I take blame for.

There was a thought, and even though we had been talking about it for a couple of months, I really thought that the discretion finally lay in [the Board]. And I am not the only person who was under that impression about the discretion. The Member for East End said to me that we did not need to pass this amendment because the Board has that discretion and they gave it the other day. And I said that I did not think so, but he assured me they had. Well, they gave some but it was not for this particular time. So, I was under some illusion and I just could not get it done in time before now. There was some mix-up about the discretion. Not from all of us, but some of us.

On the timing, Madam Speaker, the Member for North Side keeps chiming this and also the other Opposition Leader. Madam Speaker, they well know . . . the Leader of the Opposition knows by now, because I believe he got the same advice I got—probably from the same source—that what the Constitution says it says.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: *[Addressing inaudible interjection]* The Constitution is already published. You don't know that you agreed to it in London when you were sitting up there yapping about it?

Madam Speaker, they know. They full well know what they did in London. They knew every sec-

tion. I keep saying that is why the Member got his MBE. He knows! He knows full well that they only put in there what they put. They know about the time and emergency for bills and suspension of Standing Orders. If they wanted to do more they had all kinds of time and all kinds of money available to them, Madam Speaker, to change and to make it available, to make it whatever they wanted it to be because they had the public purse behind them.

They had the television. They had *NetNews* paid to do so many different things, to publish what they wanted to publish. The *[Caymanian] Compass* was with them at times. The radio station they had. They were out there going to and fro planting trees, going to Pedro Castle, making all kinds of hullabaloo. And you want to tell me that they only put that section there and only now they are realising what an emergency is and when it should occur? Or they don't realise it? Eh?

So, Madam Speaker, they can row all they want over there. They had an opportunity and they thought they could *mamaguise* the public with many things in that Constitution—that the Advisory Councils and the membership . . . because I do recall when they were trying to get me goaded in. I must move it and they would support it. You ever hear a *blahney* story like that yet? They thought they could fool people. You see, that is when they tried to drill little holes, but we can see through their little holes. They can't drill them so small. And when they weave tangled webs they seek to deceive.

So, Madam Speaker—

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: *[Addressing inaudible interjection]* No! You probably were one of the biggest ones. He is probably one of the biggest ones. Ain't anybody dressed up more than him and be out there dancing from a fish to a mosquito.

[laughter]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Ain't anybody who drinks more than him. And after hours! Yeah. So don't talk any foolishness to me, Madam Speaker.

They believe that as an Opposition they must take and make a mountain out of a molehill. Every little thing that they believe can get the public on their side they are doing. I mean every accusation that they can make. They are up to all kinds of schemes getting people to write things in the press for them. All sorts of things! They are playing good and hard. But woe be unto them, Madam Speaker. They believe that they are going to get away with all of this that they are doing. They are not going to get away with it. Let them have their say now. Let them run. Let them make their run. It will stop soon.

Madam Speaker, with that mix-up on the discretion, when a bill passes in this House—right—the House have certain processes to do. The Governor, after that, Madam Speaker, has a process, and after that process, there is the gazettal process. So, if timing is what they are concerned about, I do not see that there is just enough time if we came back on the 28th which I think would be the time we would have in the 21 days. But it is considered an emergency. So, Madam Speaker, I recognise that if I had said ‘no’ to the businesses you can believe they would have been on the radio show hollering about how we need to support the business.

They would have been the opposite! And that is their problem. They can find . . . and they are the Opposition. They do not have to come with solutions and they don’t. They come and oppose everything that you can think of. There is nothing that we bring; nothing that they do not find a reason to vote or to abstain.

So, Madam Speaker, the House is not here making Sunday available. We are not here making Sunday available. What we are doing . . . we recognise the economy that we live in, the times that we do and the Minister of Education made a good point in that.

I want to ask them though, if they think that when you have in the New Year’s Eve the airport so full of planes—private planes—so full that there is no space, they had to go to Cayman Brac and park as they did last year, and other places to come here, [do] they think they are just coming here to do what? What do they think they are coming here to do? Use flashlight? No! They come here to enjoy themselves. Cayman is still a safe destination. And so they come to enjoy themselves, some of them with family. Stop being so hypocritical!

We are here giving discretion to the Board; that’s what we are doing. And so the Board particularly for residential areas, as the First [Elected] Member for George Town was complaining about, the Board must say when they will extend and what premises they will give that permission to.

The First [Elected] Member for George Town talked about the police is stretched. If that is so, then, the police would be stretched because of so many bar licences; more than the upscale restaurants or hotels that will benefit from this particular extension because the hotels at that particular time get it all the time. They just did it! They get it all the time. Hotels I do not believe get it, or the upscale restaurants, but on New Year’s Eve it is a time when those particular places that cater to our visitors, are the places that require it at that special time. This Board will have the discretion.

You know what gets me, though, Madam Speaker? I talked earlier about me being a Sunday worshipper. They sit there quarrelling about going

past twelve o’clock. We used to do it you know. We used to go until two o’clock. And you were more religious then! More people went to church then than what go today. More went to church in the days of Blue Horizon and Inferno and Apollo Eleven, and all those places you could stay until two o’clock on Sunday mornings. All over George Town there were places. Why do we in this House allow, in legislation, the places to open up eleven o’clock on Sunday? Why? Or ten o’clock Sunday?

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: You heard what I said. They open on Christmas Day too! They do, Madam Speaker. All of them! You likely to end up there too!

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Yeah, me and you!

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Not me! I ain’t going anywhere with you!

[inaudible interjection]

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

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: *[Addressing inaudible interjection]* That would not be the first time you stretch the truth my son.

Madam Speaker, the liquor licensing laws, the Sunday trading laws are a bunch of hypocritical laws in this country when it comes to Sunday. Because, they say you can’t do this, you can’t do that on a Sunday; yet they sell gasoline, they sell this and they sell that on a Sunday. You cannot go out and dance. I find that if you dance it is a good exercise—depends on how you dance because I see some dances that I do not call dancing anymore.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Yeah.

I do not call that dancing but it is good exercise.

[laughter]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Yet you can’t do that. We do not allow that, but we allow people to go out there and drink and carry on and do all they want to do around those bars on a Sunday. It is a hypocritical law! If we should do anything, we should change it! If we are so holier-than-thou, the Leader of the Opposition . . .

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: We are saying, Madam Speaker, that that is why we are giving discretion to the Board. And I don't think that the holy days—Christmas Day and Good Friday, those days—are not included in this Bill. No it is not included in this Bill.

Madam Speaker, I told them what the amendment says. The amendment says that an insertion is proposed in section 9 by deleting the words “on any day” and substituting the words “whenever New Year's Eve falls on a Saturday.” So, you should be willing to support it because it does not support . . . that's what the Member from East End just asked us to do—do not support New Year's Eve, do not support Christmas Day and do not support Good Friday. And on Christmas Day, tell me when the bars do not open at some point. Tell me when? Or, [tell me when] on Good Friday they do not open at some point?

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Well, I wish that I had a magic wand that I could do everything to satisfy everybody. That will never happen.

And so, Madam Speaker, I do not think that I have any more to say on this. It is what it is. And when we were presented with the situation, we said rather than open it up let's give the Board the discretion. The Board can say where and what time, and how and to whom. So, if it is going to be a problem to a particular community, a particular district, a particular residential home, then the Board ought to say, *Sorry, this does not work*. That's the discretion.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: *[Addressing inaudible interjection]* Yeah, you would say that.

Madam Speaker, I do not think I can add anymore to what has been said. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Premier.

The question is that a Bill shortly entitled The Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011, be given a second reading. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and Noes.

The Speaker: I think the Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011 given a second reading.

The Speaker: I think this is a good time to break for lunch until two o'clock. Proceedings are suspended until 2.00 pm.

Proceedings suspended at 12:45 pm

Proceedings resumed at 2:51 pm

The Speaker: Proceedings are resumed. Please be seated. When we broke for lunch we had completed the Second Reading of the Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011.

The House will now go into Committee to consider the Bill.

House in Committee at 2:54 pm

COMMITTEE ON BILL

The Chairman: The House is now in Committee. Please be seated.

With leave of the House, may I assume that, as usual, we should authorise the Honourable Second Official Member to correct minor errors and suchlike in these Bills?

Would the Clerk please state the Bill and read the Clauses?

Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011

The Clerk: The Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011.
Clause 1 Short title.

The Chairman: The question is that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Clause 1 passed.

The Clerk: Clause 2 Amendment of section 9 of the Music and Dancing (Control) Law (2010 Revision) - extensions of permitted hours.

The Chairman: Clause 2, Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Thank you, Madam Chairman.

I have asked for an amendment, which you have allowed. So, in accordance with Standing Order 52(1) and (2), I move the further amendment to the Music and Dancing (Control) Amendment Bill, 2011, that clause 2 of the Bill be amended in the new sub-

section (3) proposed for insertion in section 9 of the principal Law by deleting the words "on any day" and substituting the words "whenever New Year's Eve falls on a Saturday."

Madam Chairman, we do have a problem with that whenever the day falls on a Sunday. That is about a couple of years ago, so I think we should add a consequential amendment to that, and I think the legal people would agree with it, that we can do it by consequential amendment to read "whenever New Year's Eve falls on a Saturday or Sunday."

Again, we are not moving Christmas day or Good Friday. It is for those odd years when it will fall on a Saturday or Sunday which affects Sunday.

So, it would read, deleting the words "on any day" and substituting the words "whenever New Year's Eve falls on a Saturday or Sunday."

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved. Does any Member wish to speak thereto?

Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: Madam Chair, just for completeness, the Honourable Premier mentioned consequential amendment. I think in terms of prospective there is really a further amendment under Standing Order 52 which no notice has been given, and those would allow you to agree to allow him, give him leave to add the words "or Sunday."

[Inaudible discussion off microphone and long pause]

The Chairman: Can we proceed with the matter at hand?

Would you like to read the amendment again that you are proposing, so that we can have it straight in the record?

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: The amendment, Madam Chair, would stand as has been tabled, which is that clause 2 of the Bill be amended in the new subsection (3) proposed for insertion in section 9 of the principal Law by deleting the words "on any day" and substituting the words "whenever New Year's Eve falls on a Saturday." And we will leave it at that.

The Chairman: The amendment has been duly moved. Does any Member wish to speak thereto?

[Ongoing inaudible discussion off microphone and laughter]

The Chairman: The question is that the amendment stands part of the clause. All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: That didn't count; he's not in his chair.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Amendment to clause 2 passed.

The Chairman: The question now is that the clause as amended stands part of the Bill. All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and Noes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Clause 2 as amended passed.

The Clerk: A Bill for a law to amend the Music And Dancing (Control) Law (2010 Revision) to make further provision in respect of the variation of permitted hours for music and dancing in licensed premises; and to make provision for incidental and connected matters.

The Chairman: The question is that the Title do stand part of the Bill. All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Title passed.

The Chairman: The question is that the Bill be reported to the House. All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one abstention.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Abstain.

The Chairman: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Bill will be reported to the House.

House resumed at 3.04 pm

The Speaker: Proceedings are resumed. Please be seated.

REPORT ON BILL

**Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill,
2011**

The Clerk: The Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011.

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: I have to report that a Bill entitled the Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011, was examined in a Committee of the whole House and amended.

The Speaker: The Bill has been duly reported and is set down for third reading.

Suspension of Standing Order 47

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, I move the suspension of Standing Order 47 to enable the Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011, to be read a third time.

The Speaker: The question is Standing Order 47 be suspended to enable the Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011, to be read a third time.

All those in favour please say Aye.

Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible No.

The Speaker: I think the Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 47 suspended.

THIRD READING

Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011

The Clerk: The Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011.

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

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

I move that The Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011, be given a third reading and passed.

The Speaker: The question is that a Bill shortly entitled The Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011, be given a third reading and passed.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one abstention.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Abstain.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: The Music and Dancing (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2011 given a third reading and passed.

MOTIONS

GOVERNMENT MOTION

Government Motion No. 6/2011-12—The Tax Information Exchange Agreements between the Cayman Islands and various Jurisdictions, as of 30th November 2011

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

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

I beg to move Government Motion No. 6/2011-12, entitled Tax Information Exchange Agreements between the Cayman Islands and various Jurisdictions, as of 30th November 2011, which reads as follows:

WHEREAS in 2000 the Government of the Cayman Islands entered into a commitment to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development for the effective exchange of information on tax matters;

AND WHEREAS it is acknowledged that the Government of the Cayman Islands has the right under the relevant terms of Entrustment from Her Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom to negotiate, conclude and perform tax exchange agreements;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Cayman Islands has negotiated and concluded Tax Information Exchange Agreements with the following countries, namely, Guernsey, China and Argentina.

AND WHEREAS the Governor-in-Cabinet, pursuant to section 3(5) of the Tax Information Authority Law (2009 Revision) has approved, by way of an Order, the scheduling of the abovementioned agreements to the said Tax Information Authority Law;

AND WHEREAS section 3(5)(a) of the Tax Information Authority Law (2009 Revision) provides that an Order made under the said Section is subject to an affirmative resolution of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Cayman Islands pursuant to section 3(5) of the Tax Information Authority Law (2009 Revision) is seeking approval of the Legislative Assembly for the attached agreements to be scheduled to the Tax Information Authority Law;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the attached Tax Information Exchange Agreements

be scheduled to the Tax Information Authority Law (2009 Revision) as follows:

Twenty-Fifth Schedule—Agreement Between the Government of the Cayman Islands and the States of Guernsey for the Exchange of Information Relating to Tax Matters;

Twenty-Sixth Schedule—Agreement Between the Government of the Cayman Islands and the Government of the People’s Republic of China for the Exchange of Information Relating to Taxes; and

Twenty-Seventh Schedule—Agreement Between the Government of the Cayman Islands and the Republic of Argentina on Exchange of Information on Tax Matters.

The Speaker: Government Motion No. 6/2011-12—The Tax Information Exchange Agreements between the Cayman Islands and various Jurisdictions, as of 30th November 2011, is open for debate. Does the mover wish to speak thereto?

[discussion off of the microphone]

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

The domestic legislative infrastructure for the provision of tax information by the Cayman Islands to other jurisdictions is the Tax Information Authority Law. This Law provides the necessary framework and procedures for the effective implementation and administration of government’s international obligations in the area of cooperation in tax matters.

The Law also established the Tax Information Authority as the Cayman Islands’ competent authority which is the sole, dedicated channel in the Cayman Islands for international cooperation in matters involving the provision of tax related information.

Madam Speaker, currently, there are 24 bilateral tax information exchange agreements which appears on the schedules to the Law. The United States, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, France, Curacao, St. Martin, Australia, Aruba, Portugal, Germany, Canada, Mexico, Japan, India and South Africa.

To allow the addition of further agreements, Madam Speaker, for the provision of tax information, the Law provides a mechanism in section 3(5), that the Governor in Cabinet may make an order adding such further agreements as schedules to the Law. To use the technical language of section 3(5)(a), that section reads as follows: “**add a schedule to this Law for the purpose of setting out and giving effect to an agreement for the provision of information in taxation matters.**”

Where the Governor in Cabinet makes such an order it is subject to an affirmative resolution of this Assembly.

So, Madam Speaker, by order of the Cabinet on 6 December, three recently signed bilateral agreements for the provision of tax information were approved by Cabinet for additions as schedules to the Law, namely, with Guernsey, signed 29 July 2011; with China, signed on 26 September 2011; and with Argentina, signed on 13 October 2011.

Madam Speaker, I therefore commend the Government Motion to Members for their support.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Premier. Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause] Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]

If not, I will call on the mover of the Motion to exercise his right of reply.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, I just want to thank all Members for their support, spoken or otherwise.

The Speaker: The question is: BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the attached Tax Information Exchange Agreements be scheduled to the Tax Information Authority Law (2009 Revision) as follows:

Twenty-Fifth Schedule—Agreement Between the Government of the Cayman Islands and the States of Guernsey for the Exchange of Information Relating to Tax Matters;

Twenty-Sixth Schedule—Agreement Between the Government of the Cayman Islands and the Government of the People’s Republic of China for the Exchange of Information Relating to Taxes; and

Twenty-Seventh Schedule—Agreement Between the Government of the Cayman Islands and the Republic of Argentina on Exchange of Information on Tax Matters.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 6/2011-2012 passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

Private Member’s Motion No. 9/2011-12 —Anti-Corruption Law

The Speaker: Member for North Side.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I wish to move Private Member's Motion No. 9/2011-12, Anti-Corruption Law:

WHEREAS the Anti-Corruption Law was passed by this Legislative Assembly on 30th June 2008 and came into effect on 1st January 2010 by order published in the Gazette dated 14th April 2009;

AND WHEREAS section 3 establishes the Anti-Corruption Commission and in section 1 of the Schedule establishes the constitution of the Commission;

AND WHEREAS the current Commission includes the Commissioner of Police, the Complaints Commissioner and the Auditor General;

AND WHEREAS the Commissioner of Police, the Complaints Commissioner and the Auditor General are very busy people in their primary roles for which they are employed;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Legislative Assembly amend the Schedule of the Anti-Corruption Law by deleting section 1 and replacing it with the following:-

"The Commission shall consist of five persons appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be either a retired judge, magistrate, or Justice of the Peace and one of whom shall be a retired attorney";

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly amend section 4 of the Schedule by deleting the words "The Commissioner of Police shall be Chairman of the Commission and" and substituting the words -

"The Commission shall at its first meeting elect a Chairman from its members who".

The Speaker: Does the Motion have a seconder?
Elected Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
I wish to second the Motion.

The Speaker: The Motion has been duly moved and is open for debate. Does the mover wish to speak thereto?

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
The Motion is very straightforward and speaks quite clearly to what needs to be done. The Government has circulated an amendment with which I have no problem, so I commend the Motion to the House.

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

Honourable Premier.

Amendment to Private Member's Motion No. 9/2011-12—Anti-Corruption Law

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, Government is in some support for what the Member is attempting. However, we believe that we need to offer an amendment so that Government will have the leeway to be able to look at the whole thing holistically to see how better we can improve it; that is, improve the Law.

So, in accordance with the provision of Standing Order 25(1), I would seek leave in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) to move the following amendment to Private Member's Motion 9/2011-12 as follows:

To amend the first resolved section as follows: By deleting the words "this Legislative Assembly amend" and insert the words "the Government consider amending"; and to amend the second resolved section as follows: By deleting the words "Legislative Assembly amend" and insert the words "Government consider amending"

The Resolved Sections will now read: **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Government consider amending the Schedule of the Anti-Corruption Law by deleting section 1 and replacing it with the following:

"The Commission shall consist of five persons appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be either a retired judge, magistrate, or Justice of the Peace and one of whom shall be a retired attorney";

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government consider amending section 4 of the Schedule by deleting the words "The Commissioner of Police shall be Chairman of the Commission and" and substituting the words -

"The Commission shall at its first meeting elect a Chairman from its members who".

Madam Speaker, as I said, we are somewhat supportive of the attempt here, but we believe that we need the leeway to do as we are doing which will give Government the ability to sit down and look at what the Law says in this section and see how better we could improve it.

The Speaker: There are two motions on the floor. We will dispose of the [amending] motion that has just been proposed. Does any other Member wish to speak? Does any other Member wish to speak? [pause]

If not, I will present the second motion, [which is the amending motion]: BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Government consider amending the Schedule of the Anti-Corruption Law by deleting section 1 and replacing it with the following:

“The Commission shall consist of five persons appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be either a retired judge, magistrate, or Justice of the Peace and one of whom shall be a retired attorney”;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government consider amending section 4 of the Schedule by deleting the words “The Commissioner of Police shall be Chairman of the Commission and” and substituting the words -

“The Commission shall at its first meeting elect a Chairman [from its members] who”.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Amendment to Private Member’s Motion No. 9/2011-12 – Anti-Corruption Law passed.

The Speaker: I will read the motion now as amended, into the records:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Government consider amending the Schedule of the Anti-Corruption Law by deleting section 1 and replacing it with the following:

“The Commission shall consist of five persons appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be either a retired judge, magistrate, or Justice of the Peace and one of whom shall be a retired attorney”;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government consider amending section 4 of the Schedule by deleting the words “The Commissioner of Police shall be Chairman of the Commission and” and substituting the words -

“The Commission shall at its first meeting elect a Chairman from its members who”.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Private Member’s Motion No. 9/2011-12 – Anti-Corruption Law passed as amended.

The Speaker: There is no further business on the Order Paper; I will call for a motion for the adjournment.

I am very sorry; I have given permission for a statement by the Premier. I did give leave for him to make the statement earlier today.

STATEMENTS BY HONOURABLE MEMBERS AND MINISTERS OF THE CABINET

Cruise Port Development Progress Update

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

Madam Speaker, I have found it necessary in this blessed Christmas season to shed some more light on a subject that has, in recent time, suffered from far too much heat, and far too little light. So much has been said that if the public is now confused it would be very understandable. It could be understood if the public no longer remembered that in April 2003, having responsibility for the Port Authority then, as I do now, I commissioned Misener Marine to act as developers for the provision of proper cruise port facilities.

Granted, the scale of the job at that time was different from what it is now, but it did include a cruise ship pier which would have been vastly better than the facility we currently have, which still relies on tendering, and which the FCCA (Florida Caribbean Cruise Association) has rejected as a long-term facility. But, this is what the previous government saw fit to provide for us, having thrown out the Misener deal.

One very sound commonsense rule that I doubt even the Opposition would question in principle, Madam Speaker, is that if you're going to change a plan, change it for the better. The trouble is, even if they agree in principle they don't apply it in practice. On the other hand, Madam Speaker, what we have done every step of the way is seek for better. A lot of noise has been made about it, but let's be very clear about the facts that support the choices we have made in this cruise facilities development project.

The Opposition made noise when we selected the first developer, DECCO, and made that selection on the basis of certain core requirements, key among them being the combination of technical proficiencies, and the financial resources to bring the project to fruition.

We were able to work with DECCO, between Government and the Port, to agree most terms after some complex and difficult negotiations. Unfortunately-

ly, at the eleventh hour a key deal-breaker showed up, in the form of a requirement for a 99-year leasehold. This was unacceptable. We had always made it clear that surrender of control over the Port was not up for discussion, and that late condition caused the deal to break down.

Discussions immediately began with GLF, who were among the initial shortlist of qualified parties. Government took its share of licks at the time from the Opposition then too, but it is interesting that there was so little hue-and-cry at the No-Go of DECCO, so to speak. It is equally interesting that there was such a contrast when the GLF deal fell through. But you know what they say—throw a rock in a pen, and the one that squeals will be the one that got hit. So, they've used the talk shows, they've used the blogs, they've used the editorials, and for all the noise they make about alleged wrongdoing, you don't hear any declarations of their vested interests.

Apparently, it's only important for some people to declare when they are members of a Board and have an interest in a matter before that Board, or would even appear to have an interest.

Apparently, political allegiances only cause some people to break confidentiality by providing privileged information and leaking documents. Apparently, the critics of the Government are righteous men, who would never stoop to such things because, apparently, it is the Government that has done it all wrong, and got it all wrong—so they say!

But appearances are deceiving, Madam Speaker, and in this age of electronic communications the illusions are made viral in a matter of minutes. Where it might have taken hours, even days, for a rumour to spread over the fence, and from telephone call to telephone call, now one talk show host, or even one caller; one online journalist or blogger, one power-hungry MLA, can poison the well of public opinion with a well-placed negative inference or innuendo, and, as rumours go, without presenting any backing evidence that has merit. That's why there are law suits today and there will be some more before this month is out.

We had good reason to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding with GLF. It was the right decision, and we stand by it. The risks of non-performance were simply too high. I wish to inform the public that a settlement agreement has now been reached with GLF; and it is not even remotely close to the astronomical sums of \$35 million that have been bandied about. Not only have we agreed, but these sums will not be coming out of Government's coffers. The Government will not pay for this.

What we are dealing with here is a project of unquestionable national importance. One of the missteps in our growth model to date has been to allow our productive capacity, for instance, in foodstuff, to get so far below the line, in comparison with our im-

ports. But while this may be a target for our new model of development, this is where we are; which means that control of the Port is therefore not up for discussion. It was not with DECCO, it was not with Misener, it was not with the American Company that we had also signed with, it was not with GLF, it is not and will not be with the China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) with whom we are now negotiating.

To summarise the history of the situation to date, there has been over the years a huge battle to get proper cruise facilities in Grand Cayman. All of our competitors have built facilities and Caymanians are losing their businesses and some are losing revenue. The Government is losing a lot of revenue. In 2003 we signed an agreement to build, with an American company called Signet, which was not accepted because of disagreements between what was known then as the North and South businessmen.

We signed another agreement in 2005 with Misener Marine. After the elections in May 2005 the then Government cancelled it, discarded the agreement and started a new process some years later which was abandoned because it entailed moving the dock and a tremendous amount of dredging to the west of the present dock. That was with a company called Atlantic Star.

Since then there have been new attempts with DECCO and GLF, which, as I have said, did not work out.

There was no value for money process carried out by GLF, no independent business case carried out by GLF. KPMG is now doing that from instructions of the Government and the Port Authority Board.

Most of all there is no evidence that GLF had or has the funds to do the project, but they wanted us to sign the contract for them to go out and get funding! And that was the proposal that was put to me. The papers are there to prove that.

GLF local construction partners had started negotiations privately with a jewellery store company to own and operate in the Upland Development unbeknownst to the Port Authority or the Government; certainly, unbeknownst to me as the Minister.

The cost of capital would have been very expensive with both these developers, 7.5 per cent to 8.5 per cent for GLF and 8.5 per cent to 10 per cent for DECCO or Dart. GLF had no dredging equipment to do the project. Which meant more cost added to the project. What is being done now is a proper business case value-for-money study. What is being included is relevant and adequate natural environment protection, consideration of how to best integrate commercial and vehicular traffic flows to minimise the load-bearing impact on our infrastructure in particular, out in the front of the Elmslie Church and on that street, and to maximise local business and employment opportunities.

Madam Speaker, we are looking to leverage our assets—little as we have as a Government—in the best and most effective way possible. We are looking at safety and security, comfort and aesthetic attractiveness, showcasing Caymanian culture and thereby enhancing the long-term tourism value.

There are many facets to this, and in CHEC we have found a partner prepared to take on these complexities. Much mud has been slung on the image of CHEC and the reputation of their country. I have heard comments that are ignorant and hurtful; comments that pervert the Chinese business culture of long-term relationship building, and distort it into an aim and desire on their part to flood our little Island with their own people and products.

This is far from a true reflection, because the truth is, we have a very clear understanding. Our agreement is that they would be allowed to bring in the key technical personnel, while all available local human resources must be made use of first. And that is what is in the MOU, much less when we go to sign the definitive agreement. They also, agree (as I have mentioned before) and will work with us to craft a mechanism that would allow Caymanians a share of the equity in the new facility.

This would be the first time that such an opportunity will be given to Caymanians—that's in the MOU. And it will be in the definitive agreement when that is completed. It will give Caymanians an opportunity not to just rent a shop space, but to have equity in our national development infrastructure. In other words, they can buy into the ownership of the infrastructure that will need to be built, the shops and other things that need to be built, and own and get an income from that. That is what we have gotten. That was not done with anybody else.

CHEC has agreed to develop Spotts which is the alternative for cruise ships in bad weather. They have agreed to develop pier facilities at Cayman Turtle Farm. Cayman Turtle Farm was built on the basis that there was going to be a dock to take cruise ship passengers there, or else I would not have gone into that, and I could not have gotten support, Madam Speaker, from the Tourism Association and others across our tourism partner base at that time. We need to do that now as soon as possible so that we can save \$9 million a year that we now have to pay in because we don't have a dock there.

They have agreed to cruise facilities in Cayman Brac with Mr. Dervyn Scott, at his dock that he has started building. This is what I call leveraging our national assets. Our national asset is that dock! And anybody who wants to build it must come around to my way of thinking of allowing Caymanians more input into it. That is what I got out of this deal!

Of course, they would like to just develop the George Town facility. But the Country needs much

more than George Town developed. And that's what I call leveraging our assets!

Contrary to all the rumour-mongering, therefore, I can assure the public that Government and the Port Authority have found a smart way, a proper partner, together with whom we shall produce a world-class facility that:

- a) brings stability to the cruise tourism business for the Islands;
- b) actually increases visitor numbers;
- c) vastly improves the visitor experience, and our facilities management.

On top of that, Madam Speaker, Government will not have to find the capital. CHEC has access to funding on the right terms available for this project in Cayman at 1 per cent to 3 per cent—that is what is in the agreement—for their capital investment costs.

Government will not have to guarantee any loan. Government does not have money; neither does the Port have money. So because we don't have to borrow or guarantee any loan there will be no addition to our debt position.

Government and the Port Authority, with guidance from KPMG, will craft a manageable financing plan with CHEC, by dedicating selected parts of their revenue stream to the project. We are working hand in hand with the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) on this in terms of balancing their requirements and ours, but with the development of the piers, through the sheer size and ease of access by the ships, will add more people to the route, and, therefore, add more funds to this country; more revenue to this country—Government's pockets and the pockets of businesses in this country.

Madam Speaker, we are not at liberty to go into greater specifics at this point with respect to these matters. I can assure the public that not only are we conducting our own due diligence, but we have employed the highly reputable firm of KPMG to conduct our business case value-for-money study. We have had frank discussions with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and they are content with how we are managing the process. Now, you wouldn't believe that when you listen to the two radio shows on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The FCO are aware of our intention that after the KPMG study is completed, it will go to the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) for their information. There has been much misreporting of that relationship too. I think Minister Bellingham would be highly embarrassed to be charged with ever having rapped my knuckles, as some, like the Leader of the Opposition would have it. On the other hand, it should at least satisfy the nay-sayers to know that with the agreed high bar now set with the FCO on our capital investment, the United Kingdom is supportive of the steps we are taking.

Madam Speaker, there is too much politics put into this on those radio shows. There is too much interference by the local partners who were with GLF. They need to stop dogging where I am going. They need to stop interfering. They need to stop telling lies, or I am going to deal with them properly one day in this House. I stop there, Madam Speaker. That's not in the statement, but that's in the record. And it is not out of place. It is well placed, Madam Speaker, for them to know where I stand.

I have taken enough!

The Speaker: Please stick to the text in the statement though.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Just to repeat: I have taken enough. And one of these days I am going to stand up in this House and they will understand where I am coming from as most Caymanians that might not know where they came from.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I want to offer a word of appreciation to the Leader of the Opposition, who apparently said on the air on the 30th November that it would be 'disastrous' to build this facility at Red Bay, as some have suggested. Again, vested interests come presented in the guise of public interest Madam Speaker, and, as a result, I doubt the Red Bay group will pay the Honourable Leader any more mind, will give him any more credit than they do the Government.

Madam Speaker, the proof is in the pudding. We encourage the public to be balanced in their views, to ask for evidence when criticisms are made, and to be assured that this Government will deliver a facility that contributes to the common good in this community, one of which we can all long be proud.

The Press should wait to hear the full facts when the Government can present it, rather than pouring oil on a fire. This gets nothing done and is merely finger pointing. And I mean all sections of the press—the Internet, the *Caymanian Compass* CITN, the radio show, particularly the two radio stations, Rooster and Radio Cayman. Radio Cayman is doing a fair job, but Rooster is nasty! And they have been sued and they are going to be sued again!

Madam Speaker, in the past I too was eager to give the press information on matters which sometimes had not all been worked out because I felt that they needed to know and I didn't want anybody just jumping out there and saying something. But in this Country this is not the best way. I have learned my lesson. I have said that I will keep the public abreast of the events on this matter when I can present full facts, rather than guesswork. I am doing that, I am keeping that promise.

The Speaker: Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

In accordance with Standing Order 30(2), I beg your indulgence to ask the Premier a few short questions.

The Speaker: Granted.

Short Questions [Standing Order 30(2)]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: The Premier has said, and I quote, "I wish to inform the public that a settlement agreement has now been reached with GLF" et cetera. "Not only have we agreed, but these sums will not be coming out of Government's coffers."

Can the Premier tell us how much that settlement is and where those monies will be coming from?

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, when it is appropriate to announce the amount; it will be done and I will do so. At this point in time it is not appropriate, and it is not \$35 million. Not even [\$]3 [million] much less \$35 [million].

The Speaker: Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker, in the Premier's statement he says that "They [that is the Chinese people] also, agree (as I have mentioned before) and will work with us to craft a mechanism that would allow Caymanians a share of the equity in the new facility."

Madam Speaker, can the Premier expand upon that a little bit and tell us how that equity into the port will work?

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, as we said, it is something that we have agreed on that there will be that equity which is being worked on. We do not have a definitive agreement. That is what KPMG is doing. But what this means is that Caymanians can buy shares and have ownership—equity means ownership—in the port, into that development when that is done out there.

The Speaker: Elected Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Can the Premier then say, if we are going to try and get Caymanians equity into the port, has the Government considered allowing it to be fully owned, financed, by Caymanians first thereby eliminating the need to have the Chinese finance it; or, if they finance

it with their 1 per cent to 3 per cent, but guaranteed by Caymanians and they own it entirely?

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I don't know if I can give that guarantee. Caymanians had an opportunity to bid in. Some of them bid in and they did not make it. I didn't know about any group that came and were able to have the money. I certainly have not been presented with any that have any money to do this with and could offer that kind of rate increase. And they will have an opportunity to buy shares in that development.

Now, as I have said—and I ain't backing out on this—anyone coming to do any kind of investment while I still have responsibility into what is our national assets, Caymanian or otherwise, looking opportunity, is going to have to do better. That is why the Chinese are doing Spotts; that's why they are doing Turtle Farm; that's why Caymanians can buy into it, that's why they have given a commitment to Cayman Brac.

The Speaker: Elected Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

These last two questions I will just put them into one: Number one is: Who will operate the dock? That's number one; and [number] two: Spotts, Turtle Farm and Cayman Brac—Will those all be conducted under the same conditions as the one in George Town, the main facility, which is planned for the George Town Harbour? That is, under the same conditions, whoever is going to run it; whether those other three will be built under those same conditions.

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, to operate the dock . . . the dock will not be changing ownership. We are not . . . in our development or redevelopment . . . and we have to do some in Cayman Brac. I think we have funds for that. But I am talking about the airport and I am just giving you a wider understanding of what my position is.

When we do the airport that is going to be owned by Caymanians. The Cayman people will continue to own it. Somebody has to develop it so there has to be a plan for a repayment. Anyone making an investment is going to want to understand, have some sort of knowledge of what their investment is and a watch on their investment. So there has to be some sort of mechanism where they are involved in the management. But the ownership and operation will continue to be the Cayman Islands Port Authority.

The Cayman Turtle Farm—when they get to that, because they have to build George Town first, or get that very far advanced—will be a different negotia-

tion and with the Cayman Turtle Farm Board, as they also have a Board, and the Government as the overall owner.

Spotts is adjunct to the Port Authority who controls that. So the two of them are wedded together.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: May I have a motion for adjournment now, please?

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I want to move the adjournment of this honourable House sine die.

Before I do that, Madam Speaker, I crave your indulgence to bring greetings to Members.

The Speaker: Yes, Honourable Premier.

Seasons' Greetings

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, this has been a grueling year thus far, from January to now; perhaps the most difficult time that I have ever spent in my life after going through personal tragedies.

Madam Speaker, it is perhaps the worst time for anyone to be in control of Government as this has been an awful year. I have chosen for my personal theme, 'hope and trust'. Madam Speaker, that is what I have for the New Year.

In wishing, on behalf of my colleagues on this side of the House, our Cabinet, wishing you, Madam Speaker, and the Clerk and all the staff here who have done a tremendous job of keeping this House going even short-staffed and other challenges; and to the Opposition, I want to wish everyone, the press who sit downstairs, and all staff members, again, I want to wish the best of the New Year. Good hope; hope in the future and trust in God; those two things.

Having a merry Christmas perhaps is easier for some. Some of us have lost our loved ones and so this Christmas will not be merry. We will take time out to recognise the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. And so, because we believe in him, it gives us hope and trust in him.

I will be bringing Christmas greetings later on to the nation and in the New Year. I will have an opportunity to wider expand my views and thoughts for the future. But just to say here, Madam Speaker, that all of us need to express what is truly demanding of us as humans. This is a fragile group (I want to put it that way) this thing called Members of this House. Only 15 of us as elected, and two are Official Members. We get fingers pointed at us; we are called "crooked." There are Members of this House who perhaps help to perpetuate that. Our families suffer for it.

We need to stop and think about what we are doing, who we are hurting, how long-lasting it is. Is it good politics? Is it the best politics to be played? Does winning Government mean that much? All of us, Madam Speaker.

And, Madam Speaker, I want to say to all of us here, take more time out with your family. All of us have a job to do—that I know—on both sides of the House. Spend time with that old mother, for when we lose them, we lose our best friend, the one who holds our own secrets and the best secrets. And go to see that old aunt that we might never have seen for years, and that uncle that we probably don't like. Give them the joy at this Christmas. Let us take time for our family, for when we lose our family we lose everything; we lose everything, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for their hard work—all of them who get involved in the running of the country assisting people in one shape or another. All of us need to be (and this side I'm speaking for) more attentive to our time to get here and to be able to get our meetings started in the New Year. That is our first duty. That is what we were elected for. Everything else is secondary. But I know the pressures that Members have to live under, Madam Speaker, for I wake up in the morning and there are people still lined up to see me. I get to the office door and people are still lined up. I know that about all of us on this side, and that is what I am talking about tardiness and being on time. But I do know that Members on the other side suffer the same thing. People line up to see them.

In these times we are all pressured to help and assist people, and are called upon to help people with what we don't have, sometimes; and give away all that we have most times.

So, Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues (again), I want to wish everyone a joyous Christmas and a healthy New Year. And as that Christmas carol says, *let's have some hope for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn*. And we say to the man at the gate, give me a light that I may see my way, and we know what he replied. "Put your hand in mine." That should be better than any light and better than any known way. That's good advice.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Premier.

Does any other Member wish to say something?

Elected Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I would say that I am doing this on behalf of the Opposition in the absence of the Leader of the Opposition, but most likely some of my colleagues will also speak.

Madam Speaker, when all is said and done, the Premier said that there are 15 of us in here and that is so true that when all is said and done, regardless of what the public believes, there is much civility amongst us. Particularly during these times when Christmas is here and it is a time for forgiving, the time for giving, the time for sharing, and particularly when we have to share in the personal challenges that we encounter as Members of Parliament.

As I speak, my mom is in the hospital. As I speak, the mother of the Minister of Education is overseas receiving treatment. And the Minister of Community Affairs does not have the privilege of his mother come Christmas morning. Those are the personal challenges that we all have to share and we all have to endure. And it is more so for us during Christmas.

What people have to understand is that we are human beings first. First and foremost, the 15 of us are human beings. There are many challenges that we have to endure to be able to keep our heads high and to lead this country politically whether we disagree or not. And we recognise, like Shakespeare said, "Uneasy [lies] the head that wears [a] crown." But we do.

Madam Speaker, we are thankful and we trust that this country will be thankful for what we have. The world is reeling right now from the many challenges the world has. We are but a blip on the radar and we have done exceptionally well in all of these problems. I saw this morning where Europe is now creating another debt resolution.

Look at the many people who are less fortunate than we are. This is the time to give thanks. The Americans do it at Thanksgiving, we do it during Christmas and we give. The world has many challenges and they are hitting us. The people of this country in general and in particular the people of East End, I wish them a joyous holiday season. I encourage them to do as we did before, and that is share.

Many of the younger ones do not know what the yesteryear was for this country, when we had a population of 7,000 to 10,000, where everybody knew everybody and everybody shared with everybody. We have survived many an onslaught—natural and manmade. We will survive this too, but we have to be kind to each other. It is about the kindness and respect that we have for each other. And this is the best time to do that.

This is the birth of Christ. Let it be a new birth for us. Let us approach 2012 with hope and optimism and a resolve for us all to do this together and survive this financial onslaught that this world is going through that is affecting us.

Madam Speaker, let me also express hope for the coming season to your good self and the staff of this Legislative Assembly and the wider government. But in particular the staff of this Legislative Assembly

who have had to put up with these 15 Members during this trying year. I know many nights we were here late.

Madam Speaker, it is indeed exciting to see the staff stay here so late at night and support the Members of this honourable House and they must be commended for that, and your good self staying late at night into the wee hours of the morning.

Madam Speaker, I know the Members of this honourable House are at times troublesome. And that is being charitable, particularly for some of us. But, Madam Speaker, it is all in the spirit of advocating for and defending the people who elected us. I think it should be viewed by the public, by other Members, in that spirit. But here is a time now to say Merry Christmas, wish our families well, wish our constituents well, wish the staff and your good self and all the country well. And least I forget; the people who really make it possible for us to stay here and meet these challenges, particularly when we get home after a long day here, and that's our families.

Were it not for our families who make those sacrifices too, this job would be much harder. So, Madam Speaker, let me extend my thanks to my family for supporting me, and to all the many families and extended families of the 15 of us in here, because it is they who allow it after the election day for it to be possible for us to be here, taking care of children that we leave behind, to have the food on the table, to love us when we get home and have all of our stuff in place to be able to come back here the next morning. It is they who make it possible for us. So let me wish them Merry Christmas also and thank them for allowing us to be shared with the general public. This is a perfect time to thank them.

Madam Speaker, least I be chastised for leaving out anyone here, let me say the Attorney General and the Deputy Governor and now Deputy Governor Designate (he has more initials behind his name, nowadays!), Mr. Franz Manderson, and Mr. Samuel Bulgin. They too have played their part in here and I would like to wish them a Merry Christmas also and their families too. They have played their part in staying here late at night too.

Let me congratulate Mr. Franz Manderson, Madam Speaker, as the Deputy Governor Designate, and now Acting [First Official Member]. He has an uphill task in front of him. I am sure he can meet the challenge.

Thank God he has had his experience before now in a number of different areas and he is also a qualified lawyer. I am looking forward to next year for him to take over his role as the second Caymanian to be Deputy Governor in these beloved Islands.

[Desk thumping]

Mr. V. Arden McLean: And you notice, Madam Speaker, I placed the emphasis on "Caymanian" be-

cause no one else will ever occupy that position. And I thank God for him, and I thank God for his family and the Attorney General too. We look forward to seeing them back here in the New Year.

Madam Speaker, thank you very much. Again, Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all Members of this honourable House, their families, and the people of the Cayman Islands.

The Speaker: Thank you, Member for East End.
Elected Member for North Side.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Thank you.

Madam Speaker, allow me to wish you and your family, all Members of this honourable House and their families, the staff who have provided so much support during the year and their families, the constituents that I represent, and the wider Cayman, a joyous and Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause]

Minister of Education.

Hon. Rolston M. Anglin: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

First, on behalf of myself and my family, let me extend the warmest of regards for the season to yourself and your family. A lot of Members here would not know, but your daughter, Jan, has become a very important person in our family because for the most part when my mother is in Tampa receiving medical care, she resides with Jan. So, obviously, your family has certainly taken on a completely new dimension for my family than would have been the case before we began this particular term in office.

Madam Speaker, before going on any further, I also would like to wish the warmest of regards for the season as well to His Excellency the Governor and his family, Madam Clerk, the Deputy Clerk, the Serjeant and all staff here at the Legislative Assembly. Indeed, our Honourable Premier, all of my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly, elected and official, and all of their respective families, God's richest blessings for the upcoming holiday season and that 2012 will be a healthy and happy year for all of them.

As was mentioned, our hearts do go out to all in the legislature, whether Members or staff, who have lost significant loved ones in this past year. We just pray God's peace as you go through the season, that wonderful memories will echo in your minds and hearts as you make it through the season.

On behalf of the Chief Officer in our Ministry and myself, I also wish to pay a particular Merry Christmas to all of the staff within our Ministry and to all of their families. We know that they work diligently

day in and day out to provide the best possible outcomes in Education, Labour and Pensions. And we certainly know that in a different way, but like us, they too often times get the brunt end of things from the public. So I would ask all of those who listen to our greetings this year that you would take time out and thank a public officer during this season with whom you have interacted for the work they do. And show some kindness and appreciation because they do work diligently for our country and for our community.

I would also like to echo the sentiments of other Members and thank all of our constituents, particularly the people of the district of West Bay, to have a safe and enjoyable holiday season. If you are going to go out and enjoy yourself, have a designated driver or use one of the services typically offered, I think it's called the 'Purple Ribbon Campaign', to ensure that you keep yourself and others on the road safe. Let us not mar the holiday season with any tragedies or accidents on our roadways.

Madam Speaker, I also would like to wish the seasons best to all of the members of the media and staff at GIS. Oftentimes we might overlook the role they play. Certainly, a responsible press and timely accurate reporting of the activities of Government is very important. So I just wish them and their families the happiest of Christmas season and the best for 2012.

Madam Speaker, as I listened to the Honourable Premier and the Elected Member for East End and I thought about the fact that our service is often one that does have that double-edged sword—when the people think we got it right we get the pat on the back. But there is always that other side. But in all things what I think we as a Caymanian community really need to collectively reflect upon and do a whole lot better, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year, is to be thankful and to just remember how lucky we are in this little Island, that is even in these challenging times, one of the best places on God's earth to be able to call home.

If we only knew how many millions of people around God's earth would give almost anything to have the right to be Caymanian, we would be shocked, but at a minimum we should be humbled. So we really need to get back to being a thankful people all of the time and really appreciate life's challenges as a way to make us collectively stronger.

If there is one thing that I learned growing up from my parents and the wider community, it is (as the old people say): what doesn't kill you can make you stronger. I think we have lost that. We have lost passing that message along and really, if I were to ask one thing of our community, it would be to show a spirit of thankfulness during this Christmas season. And use it for your New Year's resolution. What an easy one. That is not losing 100 pounds, that's not quitting smoking, that's not going and getting a college degree

or something you hadn't done for years; be thankful. It's something that should be so very easy to do.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, as I also reflected, we ourselves sometimes get caught up. I think about 2000 when I and a number of us (I think it's still about five of us in here, one-third of the House) got elected that year for the first time. And when I look back and reflect on what's happened in those very few years, I came in here as the old people would say, not a chick or a child, and now I have three daughters of my own and life has changed dramatically for all Members as well. It all happens very quickly and the thing that I would remind all of us older in tenure and younger in tenure is to remember that, as the Premier said, at the end of it, it is about community. But most importantly, it is about family.

So we ought to remember to take that important time out. And I say "take it" because that's the only way we will do it. Take that important time out to spend time with family and with loved ones during this Christmas season. That will be the greatest gift that we can give to all of our families; maybe that 10 or 15 minutes for that cousin, aunt, uncle, that you haven't seen or spoken to (amazingly, in such a small place) for a few months, a few weeks, maybe even longer, to take that time out. Madam Speaker, that is the one commodity that we cannot get any more of, and you can't do over.

So, thankfulness and spending time with our families would certainly be what I hope the majority of us and our constituents will do so that collectively our Cayman Islands can have the most joyous of seasons and have a healthy and happy 2012.

I too want to thank my wife and my immediate family for all of the support that they have given me over the years. It is only through their support that I am able to do what I do and to make the sacrifices that come with the territory of being an elected Member in a very, very small country.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Minister of Education.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause]

Out of an abundance of caution, we should suspend Standing Orders so that everybody can have an opportunity to speak.

Suspension of Standing Order 10(2)

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I thought we had all spoken by now. But anyway, Madam Speaker—

The Speaker: No. There are several more.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Out of an abundance of caution, I move that we suspend Standing Order 10(2) to allow us to go beyond 4.30.

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 10(2) be suspended to allow us to go beyond 4.30.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Standing Order 10(2) suspended.

Seasons' Greetings (continuing)

The Speaker: Third Elected Member for Bodden Town.

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's so hard to go after a guy who is so gifted with the gab.

[Laughter]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: And I mean that in a very complimentary way!

[Laughter]

Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour: Madam Speaker, it has been a rough year for many of us, especially me.

I'd like to start off by saying thank you to the Legislative Assembly team, the Clerk and her deputies and all of the other assistants in here. I know that you all have been wanting some extra staff for some time now. That is one of the things I pray, that that prayer will be answered for you all next year so that you can get some additional help here. I know the pressures that you are under. You have my support on that.

One of my themes this year as I speak at many public forums during the Christmas season is always to be thankful. I heard Minister Anglin mention this also. But when you consider that last Christmas many of us had many people around, some families that are not here now and will not be able to share this Christmas with us, many of us have life and there is nothing richer than that.

When we conduct ourselves in this honourable House, as a new Member I marveled at what I continued to learn from both sides. I am very thankful that I was chosen by the people of Bodden Town to be brought here to try to assist with their needs. But I would like to ask all Members to remember that we were sent here by someone. At times we have our

own agenda, but we always need to remember that we are here to do the work of the people.

My strength comes from my three children, Tahiti, Dior and Zachary, and my godchildren, Tahj, Zayden and Dejea. I have many more godchildren. My mother, it appears that she will be with me this Christmas. My father will not be. *[pause]*

Minister Adam's mother also will not be here. Madam Clerk's mother will not be. We pray for MLA McLean's mother, who is also dear to me. Minister Anglin's mother. *[pause]*

Madam Speaker, no one knows their destiny. We do not know the reason why the Lord chooses certain paths for us. Christmas is about family, you know. And for those who have their family, I say take care of them. Love them and tell them every day. Life is too short.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the people of Bodden Town for continuously calling and giving me their support for all of the struggles that I have gone through. And those struggles were all planned for my life. Little did I know of it. But someone has to surrender to be able to tell the story to make a nation stronger.

I would like all Members of this honourable House to encourage the people of this country to never let where you come from determine where you will go. It was Harriet Tubman who once said: **"I freed a thousand slaves I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves."**

I would like the many social clubs on this Island; the Lions, Rotary, and the staff at the Pines. Continue doing your work and may God bless your many pleas for support.

The persons who are out there on the road right now on the PRIDE cleanup, the only opportunity that you are afforded at this time in this country, I pray that more opportunities come up so that you won't have to continuously grab for the PRIDE cleanup; the effort Government has put on to try to employ people this time of the year so that families can also be happy. I pray them safety on the road.

Let's call a friend; call a family member that we haven't talked to in a while. Let us put our differences aside. Life is too short. Take some of the additional stress off of you. It's easier to love than to hate.

Madam Speaker, the tongue is the wickedest thing in the world. You read that in the Bible. We can be mischievous at times, especially on the radio shows et cetera. It's all politics. It has to be played. Let us be careful. Let us be mindful of people's families.

Madam Speaker, there are two things that leaders do. They either lead or they mislead. Let us lead, colleagues. Any fool can steer a ship on dry dock, but not many can steer that ship during stormy weather. This is stormy weather, Madam Speaker. We all need to help row to keep this boat afloat. Eve-

ryone has to keep bailing all of the water that's splashing in.

Madam Speaker, I thank you. God bless you and have a merry Christmas everyone.

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

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise to give Christmas greetings. I would like to start with you. I would like to wish you and your family a very safe and joyous holiday. I congratulate you on another year in the Chair. I have enjoyed the time, I certainly enjoyed the day we spent in Little Cayman at the Agriculture Fair and it is a real pleasure to be here and to be able to share time in this House with you, Madam Speaker.

To the Official Members, they have been given quite a bit of time this afternoon by my colleagues, so I think it's only left for me to say Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to both of them and to their families, and wish them the best.

For my colleagues on this side and on the other side, I believe that the fraternity that the 15 of us are part of is only we who have been elected that can really understand. Whether you are in the Government or the Opposition, there is a camaraderie and, an understanding of the responsibility and what the country, community and the constituents you represent demand of you.

I see honourable Members work and I can truthfully say that I know that every Member in this honourable House wants the very best for this country. I wish you all and I wish your families a very merry Christmas.

Madam Speaker, for the staff, starting with the Clerk all the way through, for the tremendous support that we get in this honourable House, I would like to thank them, and thank them individually if I see each one of them, as I try to do during the year. But they go out of their way to make it a House that we can work in and function in. I know the late nights are very trying on them and their families. So, it must be a thank you to them and a seasons' greetings and all the best for the New Year.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to thank my wife, my family, my personal assistant, Liz Walton, for the support and help and the time they have given me this year to help me be the best representative I can be for my constituents in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Without their support I could not do that. They have been of tremendous benefit and of benefit to the community as well.

I wish seasons' greetings and the very best to my constituents in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. I recognise them and thank them for the honour they have bestowed upon me to sit in one of their seats in

this honourable House. Every day that I sit here I know that it is not my seat, but it is their seat. And I do my best to represent them and bring benefit to my constituents, Madam Speaker.

Let us all remember, and it certainly affects Members of this honourable House and the constituents that I have, of the loved ones that have been lost throughout this year. And, as we visit, remember to acknowledge their loss and give them support.

Madam Speaker, people say on a daily basis that there are a lot of things wrong. But let me assure each person in this country that there are a lot more things right with this country than wrong. This year as we celebrate let us remember that Christmas is a season that has a reason. Madam Speaker, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Let us remember to keep him in our mind and in our celebrations as we go through the season.

This year I ask us to remember to help each other. The economic time of the world affects us here and demands that we each give of ourselves—and not only for the Christmas season, but all year long. Let us give thanks for our blessings on a daily basis. Let us give thanks for shelter, food, and our families. Let us never take those for granted. Most important, let us remember to enjoy the time that we have with each other.

Madam Speaker, it costs nothing to say "Merry Christmas." It costs nothing to say "Happy New Year." It costs nothing to smile. It costs nothing to be happy and it is infectious when you are. Give a compliment. In this season let us count our many blessings. Madam Speaker, let each one of us in this country make a commitment to put hand-in-hand and make Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman the best Islands they can possibly be.

In closing, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I wish everyone a safe holiday season and Merry Christmas and God's richest blessings for the New Year.

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

Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Thank you for the opportunity of allowing us to share greetings at this very special time of the year.

As I listened to both sides it was very touching and [pray] to God that as we enter into the New Year we would continue what I have heard here this evening with respect and whatever to each other.

Madam Speaker, I first of all I want to wish you and your family . . . I know this has been a very trying year for you. And also to say thank you for the assistance you have been able to provide for the people of Bodden Town and the little seniors committee group there that you have guided in many ways and

inspired to help provide for the people of Bodden Town.

I want to thank the Clerk and all of our staff here of the Legislative Assembly, and Anita for the meals. Sometimes they are a bit salty but I guess I will have to get used to it.

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: That's true, as one Member says, it's really not her.

I would like to extend Christmas greetings to the Honourable Attorney General, the Acting First Official Member, and I also just noticed awhile ago, the Honourable Financial Secretary who spends quite a bit of time down here and I extend to him and his, a good Christmas.

I would especially and most importantly like to thank my Heavenly Father for providing me the opportunity to be here to serve—going on 20 years—the people of Bodden Town. There are three of us here in that elite group who are going onto 20 years, and the Honourable Premier onto multiple 20s! Thank you to the people of these Islands, but a special thank you to the people of Bodden Town. I look forward to serving them as they see fit in the future.

Madam Speaker, at this time of year it is important that we remember those who are sick and visit them whenever possible at the hospital. Those that are mourning . . . it is very important that we touch base with them, that we take time to visit them. In the 20 years that I have been here in this Legislative Assembly, we have lost so many of our family members. But that is one route, unless Jesus comes soon through those clouds of heaven to take us, that we all must go through.

I want to remember our elderly, and all who provide for and help them. As we go around, I know my colleagues in Bodden Town and all of us in our districts, in special ways that we can help them. This is the most difficult time that I have seen for them in the history of these Islands. Let us remember to assist where we can, in whatever way we can. Sometimes just a quiet and gentle word with them means a lot to them.

Let us not forget our young people, our youth. Counsel them or give guidance wherever. I wish them all a very merry Christmas.

Madam Speaker, I want to also thank my family, my wife, my sons, especially now my grandchildren, for being there for me when I go home in the evenings and at night after leaving here and visiting my constituents. It is certainly an uplifting experience. As many of my colleagues have said, God has blessed us in so many ways. Let us not forget why we are here and listen to His Word and try to become better citizens in these Islands and advocating for all positive things.

We are so blessed. When we look at other nations we see how rough it is. But I want, on behalf of my wife, my children and my grandchildren, wish all of the people in all of these Islands a very blessed Christmas and above all a healthy New Year. Without health, Madam Speaker, things will be rough. May God bless us all.

The Speaker: Thank you, Member for Bodden Town.

Does any other Member wish to speak?
[pause]

Honourable Minister of Health.

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity.

At Christmas time, it is always a special time when we hear the mood when Members get up to speak about how caring, how thoughtful we are to one another and to everyone at this time, and Oh, how we wish that that could be all through the year. We then end without this House.

Madam Speaker, I first want to wish a blessed Christmas to you and your family, and echo the sentiments of the Second Elected Member [for Bodden Town] in saying thanks to you and the group in Bodden Town for the works they do at the Nurse Josie's Centre in preserving our culture and heritage and all of the events that we have there. I know that we are having one there this Sunday, a seniors' Christmas Dinner. So, all the seniors in Bodden Town are invited out along with my colleagues, the Third Elected Member of the District Council, the Second Elected Member and others. All the volunteers will be out there helping us with that event that we look forward to every year, which is to celebrate and provide a little Christmas cheer for our seniors in Bodden Town. So we look forward to that.

I want to also offer Christmas greetings to the staff of the Legislative Assembly, the Clerk and all the other staff of the Legislative Assembly, and thank them also. As other Members have indicated, their task is a difficult one. I always marvel at how they are here night in, night out whenever we are here, and then by the time you get back here in the morning all the cars are here again. So, I want to thank them for the tremendous efforts they put in all year to produce all the work they do here for us at the Legislative Assembly.

I want to offer greetings as well to the Official Members who are here and formal public congratulations to the Deputy Governor Designate, now Acting Deputy Governor, Franz Manderson; as well as to the Attorney General, Mr. Samuel Bulgin.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my Chief Officer and the staff of the Ministry for their hard work during the year. The Ministry has diverse subjects, but we operate with a very small staff complement within the Ministry, although a larger complement outside. I

want to say a big thank you to my Chief Officer and wish her and her family a blessed Christmas, as well as the entire staff of the Ministry; indeed the entire Civil Service.

Madam Speaker, as we all know, I was a civil servant myself. I was a career civil servant for almost 20 years. The Civil Service gets unnecessary and undue criticism quite often. As some of my colleagues have already said, the task that they are entrusted with is a difficult one—to provide service to the wider public, the services that are required, that are demanded by the wider public. And for the most part they provide it efficiently, with a high rate of production, and satisfactorily as well. So I want to thank them and wish them a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

I want to thank my family as well, Madam Speaker. My mother, who wasn't doing too well recently, is on the mend now. I also offer condolences to those who have lost their loved ones over the course of this year, and most recently, of course, who will be having memories over the Christmas of their lost loved ones.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my wife and my three children for their sacrifices. As other Members have indicated, the job that we do here in the Legislative Assembly as Representatives, Members or Ministers of Cabinet is a very difficult one. It's time consuming. It is a 24-hour job at most times. It is very challenging. And, Madam Speaker, even with all of that, and sometimes it seems to be a thankless job. But I still look forward to it. I try to rise to the challenge and every day I work very, very hard. I give my best as I pledged I would do when elected. I still consider it a privilege to be a Representative first and foremost for the constituents of Bodden Town, but for the wider public, for the residents of the Cayman Islands.

Indeed, I do not consider myself only representing those persons who can vote; I consider myself, as do all of us, as representing the residents of the Cayman Islands, everyone who lives here.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank all of the members of the emergency services and those persons who work shift jobs, especially at this time of year. The police, the fire service, the prison, the hospital, the ambulance drivers, everyone who works a shift job at this time of year. We appreciate them even more because when most of us will be home with our families on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, on those public holidays, those persons working shifts do not see those types of holidays. They work normal days. Every day for them is a normal day. So, we thank them especially at this time of the year for their efforts and for the sacrifices that they make to be away from their families, especially at this time of year.

Madam Speaker, we want to remember the elderly and the very young at this time too; the very

young children. The elderly and very young children are deemed to be probably the most vulnerable people in our society. We want to remember them. We want to encourage everyone to reach out to them. Be generous. Go and visit them. Offer them gifts. Spend some time with them if possible. Our elderly senior citizens and our very young children are indeed the most vulnerable persons in our society and we need to reach out to them.

Madam Speaker, I want to offer greetings on behalf of my family to everyone throughout the Cayman Islands. I encourage everyone to be safe, as my colleagues have said. Please don't over-do with the drinking and frolicking, gallivanting and then driving after that. Please, safety first. Please think of your health. If anything, in addition to the resolution about being thankful, as my colleague the Minister of Education suggested, if any other resolution I could encourage you to adopt for 2012, it would be to be healthier. A nation that's healthier is better for everyone, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, take the opportunity to become closer to God as well.

In closing I want to say how thankful I am to be here in the Cayman Islands. As the [First Elected] Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman said, this is still the best place on earth to be. And for all the difficulties that we are going through we still have much, much, much to be thankful for.

So, if we all continue to work together, Madam Speaker, I encourage us all to do that, not only the elected Government, not only the [appointed] Officials, but the wider Civil Service and the community in general. Let's focus on working together to strengthen our community, build back our economy, and continue to strengthen our economy in the coming year.

Madam Speaker, in closing, best wishes to all, again, for a safe, blessed Christmas and a prosperous 2012. Thank you.

The Speaker: Fourth Elected Member for West Bay.

Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It has been a very challenging year. For that reason I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, your good-self, and all the hardworking staff of the Legislative Assembly.

Madam Speaker, you have been very tolerant and accommodating. For that we must say thank you very much.

I also want to wish all Members of this Legislative Assembly, elected, and appointed Government Members, on behalf of myself and my family, we wish you all a very happy, healthy, joyous and safe holiday season. And also to all members of the Cayman Islands, the natives, and all the persons who live here, the same; especially the good people of West Bay—

the hardworking committees, and our office staff. We want to extend a special greeting to them.

Madam Speaker, I also want to thank them for affording me this opportunity to serve them for one more year. I am very grateful for that.

I also want to wish them a healthy, happy and prosperous 2012. Above all, Madam Speaker, let us not forget the reason for the season. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Fourth Elected Member for George Town.

Mr. Ellio A. Solomon: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I heard earlier on when we were in the canteen. I think it was first thing this morning probably. We were chatting a little bit and at that point in time the Acting First Official Member (soon to be First Official Member) got into a discussion where he was talking about positive attitudes. Hearing those words alone were inspiring and I joint chorus with him. I said that I also try to make sure I have a positive attitude. I think I said even if I lose an arm tomorrow, it would still be a great day, an excellent day!

Madam Speaker, I believe in part, and I know I have said this before, but as elected officials, as politicians, often times we understand that repetition is important. But, Madam Speaker, in part, I carry that positive attitude because (and I will reflect that through this story) . . . At lunch time I went today once again to the Lighthouse School to watch my little girl who, as I have said before, cannot walk, cannot talk, yet she and all of her colleagues at the Lighthouse School (and for those who have not gone yet, I encourage them to go next Christmas) . . . because when you see persons in that sort of position—not walking, not talking—handicaps that we can perhaps not even think about, and to see them participating in a Christmas programme, smiling and happy, looking positive at this world, it really makes you wonder what it is that we are running around complaining about.

I believe we can learn a lot from those persons, those young children particularly at the Lighthouse School.

When we talk about the rhetoric that I continue to hear on the talk shows, and I know it is painful sometimes to people when they hear the truth, but that is perhaps part and parcel as to why I am here, particularly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and I say it, Madam Speaker, because it is the truth, and as the good Word of God says, "The truth will set you free." Madam Speaker, every day when we speak in this honourable House or there are discussions on the radio we are programming our minds, we are programming the minds of the adults and the children who listen to us.

Just as bad fruit will not come from a good tree, so will good fruit not come from a bad tree. So, Madam Speaker, with this negative programming, I

say to those people who are engaging in it, you are hurting the country. You are killing the country. Don't take my word on it; take it from the word that all of us stand here one way shape or another at some point in our lives say is the word that has the authority. The good Word of God that says, death and life are in the power of the tongue. If there is nothing positive coming from it, Madam Speaker, it is something negative.

Madam Speaker, it has been a good year. It has been a good year because we have a lot to be thankful for. And where we can sit and complain about all of the things that we did not do, I think in large part the blaming and complaining is for losers. Let's look at the positive. Let's highlight where it is we want to go. And let's chart a course on how we are going to get there. That, I believe, is what the people want from us.

Madam Speaker, just the other day when I could sit at the Windsor Park area and see over 160 persons just in this George Town district eager and excited knowing that they have a little work for Christmas, knowing that they are going to get some money to be able to put food on the table and buy a gift for Christmas for a loved one, that is what continues to fuel and encourage me along. Knowing that one way shape or another you have done something to positively impact a life.

Despite how at the end of the day you may again have the negative comments thrown around, the same thing with respect to affordable housing. Knowing that right now 67 homes constructed, that's advancement. That's a little step forward, knowing that there are families that have a chance for that.

I am honoured to be able to serve in this House, Madam Speaker. And this has been a very good year for me, knowing that we could accomplish something. I want to thank my colleagues for their support, particularly when it came to the pension motion, knowing right now that I receive so many calls from persons who are either trying to utilise it or are utilising it and seeing a benefit. Why, Madam Speaker? Because we can know that as a result of somebody being able to access their pension today to either purchase a piece of land or a house, construct a house or make that final payment towards their mortgage, somebody, some person's family is having a better Christmas. That gives me tremendous pride.

I look forward to the following year when I get up to say, *What can I do today to make the world, to make the country, to make the Cayman Islands a better place?* That is what I think we should strive for. I believe that on the horizon there is more, as one Member said, more things in this country to be happy about than to complain about.

Madam Speaker, I suppose other than going through and talking about the greetings, of which, Madam Speaker, there is a limited amount of permutations on how you can say the same thing, so I am

going to try to keep it short. But I wish to extend the best of greetings for the season for the Christmas to all of the persons in the Legislative Assembly, including you. It is always a case, Madam Speaker, that if something seems to be working and it seems to be particularly when it seems very seamless, it is because a lot of work goes on behind the scenes. I can assure the general public that a lot of work has to go on and goes on behind the scenes at the Legislative Assembly. And you all have countless stresses to deal with, I can assure them, and you all do it very well with a smile and again, part and parcel to why I take issue to the criticisms that I hear levied against the Chair and others.

Madam Speaker, I wish to extend to my family a Merry Christmas. I heard those comments, but until you walk in the shoes of an Indian and the moccasins, they say you don't know what it is to be . . . what it's like. So, Madam Speaker, I wish, starting with my wife, I wish her a Merry Christmas, because when she has to sit with me just on weekends and hear 50 calls a day and people knocking on doors at eleven o'clock at night and people outside of our door and she is willing to share me with the world, I owe her a debt of gratitude. I wish her a very Merry Christmas. I wish to let her and my three daughters, Samantha, Sydney, and Shawn that I love them very, very much.

I also wish a very Merry Christmas to my mother and father, to my four brothers and to my sister. And my sister, by the way, is not here with us right now; she's overseas. But I wish her a very Merry Christmas also. As many persons are perhaps aware, my mother-in-law passed away not long ago. I had a very wonderful relationship with her. But that is particularly of concern to me because my wife, I can assure you, misses her a lot more and this Christmas would have been, like many Christmases before, when we would have taken the opportunity to spend time with her. And we would have been around eating and laughing. I know that this will be a very difficult Christmas for her.

Madam Speaker, there are other persons in this honorable House who have also lost family—Mr. Bush with his daughter; Mr. Adam, just recently with his mother; Ms. Zena [lost her mother]; and we have Mr. McLean in East End whose mother is sick. Madam Speaker, I am sure I probably missed someone even in this House. In the same way, I extend it to all persons in this country who I don't even have a chance to mention their names. My thoughts and my prayers are with them as well.

Again, Madam Speaker, I know, particularly in the district of George Town, too many names to mention of persons who have had one tragedy or another, some loss of a family member. My thoughts and my prayers are with them.

Of course, just before I would like to read a prayer, I want to again, Madam Speaker, therefore,

extend a Merry Christmas to all of those persons in this country but in particular, of course, to those in the district of George Town. Again, I am thankful for them and I am honoured that they would give me the chance to be able to sit in this seat and represent them.

Madam Speaker, I am sure you will remember this prayer. But I feel in a little bit of a prayerful mood. I am sure that other Members took a little bit of time, but I will read through this quickly. This is the prayer that I gave at the Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast not long ago. Because I am going to read it, maybe I am going to be demanded to table it, but if that is the case, I am quite happy to do so.

Madam Speaker, in closing I would just like to say this prayer because I believe that we have a lot to be thankful for, but we have a God that continues to look after us:

Dear Heavenly Father, I come to you today to offer up a prayer on behalf of a nation, on behalf of your people, on behalf of the Cayman Islands. Almighty God you know better than us the many challenges that we face. You see the rough waters that are around us and the bottomless deep that seeks to consume us. But we are comforted in the knowledge that greater than our greatest fears is the Mighty God that we serve.

For when these Islands were covered by a violent blanket of fury, when we disappeared from ever satellite known to man, when the world could no longer see us, and when our allies could not help us; in that mighty wind you provided us with a whisper of hope.

With a wise and steady hand of guidance and an understanding and compassionate heart, and amidst the mangled steel, concrete rubble and wounded economy you heard the cries of your people and not a single life was lost.

Well today, dear Father, your people have come before you once again. And with humble hearts and a spirit of unity we call on your wonderful and enduring mercy, Lord. We bring from our mouths the thoughts and concerns that our conscious minds grapple with every day. We bring to your attention the economic crisis that we face domestically, for we as leaders must witness so many of our people who desperately need our help. Yet we are saddened and torn from the inside as we struggle with our feelings of helplessness.

We pray today for the mothers and fathers who are losing their homes and their businesses. We pray for calm in the erratic movement of economic capital and against the wave of crime that seeks to wash away the peace and tranquility of these Islands. We pray, dear God, today that you will stand against the dark shadow that lurks within our borders that has already harvested one too many lives.

Dear God, in this global crisis it seems at times that every nation has closed its doors and our relationship with our mother country has been tremendously strained and the forces that be seek to drastically change our way of life.

So plead our cause, O Lord, with them to strive with us and fight against them that fight against us. Heavenly Father, as a nation today we are asking you to help us. We ask you to show us the answers that you have left to guide us through these difficulties, to see the answers that you have provided for us long before we have even asked.

You know, dear God, that in these difficult times that the one who roams, that the one who seeks those who he can devour, that it is in these times of famine and hardship that he tempts us most. It is in these times that he offers us the world and the world of solutions. That it is in these times that he assures us that the very stones can be turned into bread. But we know his ways, and we know that his way, despite the glitter, ends in nothing but death and darkness. So we seek today fulfillment of your word to lead us not into temptation, but to deliver us from evil.

So we ask you today for wisdom, knowledge and understanding, to know and to understand the things that you would have us do. And in that, dear God, we ask you also for the courage to do those things. We ask you for all these things, dear God, those things spoken and unspoken in the name of your son and our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Madam Speaker, a Merry Christmas to all.

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

First Elected Member for George Town.

Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I don't know why I keep doing this because by the time it gets to me there is really nothing left to say. But certainly I would wish to take this opportunity—

[Inaudible interjection]

Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts: I am being reminded not to be repetitious, but I am sure you are in a much kinder mood this afternoon, Madam Speaker, and I thank you for that in advance.

I just wish to take this opportunity to wish for you and all of yours the best for the holidays and for the years ahead. I certainly have enjoyed working with you. I am one who has been here for awhile, so we kind of get used to things. When we listen to the younger ones and see the zeal, that is heartening. Even when we have the Government and the Opposition the word "fraternity" was used earlier on by someone. And it truly is. I am one of those who cer-

tainly respects that fraternity regardless of the to and fro of opposition and sometimes acrimony.

Having wished you and yours, Madam Speaker, I certainly wish the same for the Clerk and the Serjeant who are most times in the Chamber, but certainly never to forget all of the other members of staff from the deputy right through. And certainly I want to say a big thank you, as usual, for their continued hard work and support to cause us to be able to function sensibly down here, even when at times it might seem like we won't. Somehow we always get there with the help of all.

Madam Speaker, always when it comes to this time of year I reminisce. Every year it seems to me like each year it becomes more and more the fact that all around us we see the loss of loved ones, of people with infirmities, of people becoming permanently disabled. While all of that certainly can make one despondent, the truth is, when you shake for awhile and you look again, there is still a lot of good that is around us. So, even though those challenges exist, even though that pain continues to occur with some of us, as has been mentioned, specifically with some who are in these hallowed halls at present, and also families with sickness, even with all of that, Madam Speaker, we know that when we look around us it is a part of life. And so is death.

And even with that pain we recognise that we must go on. And we must go on because we have not just the challenge, but we have a task. And that task that the 15 elected Members here right now hold is the task to be the best representatives singly that we can be for the people of this country and collectively to move this country forward to be a better Cayman Islands in the future.

So, Madam Speaker, let me say to all of my colleagues that I wish for them and their families the very best for the holidays and the coming year that we may be able to look back at the end of the next year and say, *Yes, we did make some progress.* The challenges will not stop. By now we all know they will not stop. We just have to face them and do the best that we can with the tools that we have to work with, and as far as is possible to do that together. We can always get a little further if we are able to do that. Experience has taught us that.

To the Official Members, certainly, I would wish to extend to them and to their families the very best. I want to personally offer heartiest congratulations to the Acting Deputy Governor who is now the Deputy Governor Designate. I have to say this, Madam Speaker, and I say this without fear or favour of my own convictions, not speaking for anyone else but myself, that I see no one else more fit to be appointed to the post than he who has been. And I wish to congratulate him.

Madam Speaker, to our constituents, not just in the district of George Town, but throughout the

three Islands, I wish for them the very best. As we go through the season and we find ourselves with more time to mingle I want us all to remember that it is said that Christmas is a time for giving, especially. Madam Speaker, a lot of people do not recognise that giving doesn't necessarily mean giving something out of your pocket; in many instances time is much more valuable, especially to the older folks when you are able to spend a few minutes with them and you give them the comfort of knowing that you care.

So I would encourage all of us to find as much time as possible to do that, whether it is family or friends, or acquaintances. Let us do our best during this holiday season to try to make the season more meaningful to as many others as we can.

Madam Speaker, perhaps there are others who in fairness I should single out, but I am afraid to go any further because I might not be able to stop every time I think. Let me just say that on behalf of me and my family I wish for all those with whom we rub shoulders every day, colleagues, friends, even those who are only acquaintances and perhaps we only know some of them by name, we still wish for them the very best because that is how we should be and that is how we should live.

I just want to close by saying that I look forward to having my own three children at home during the holidays. Even though they are now adults, I still need my little time hug from them in order for me to remember that I too am a father and a human being.

Once again, Madam Speaker, the very best to all. God bless.

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

Does any other Member wish to speak?

Temporary First Official Member, [Deputy Governor].

Hon. Franz Manderson: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This is the first time that I actually rise to speak in this House. I can think of no better occasion than now to wish you and your family, all your extended family, a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. I would also want to extend those greetings to everyone here in the honourable House and to the staff of the Legislative Assembly.

I listened to the Minister of Health speak about public servants and public servants who actually have to work during the Christmas holidays. And having actually worked for 12 Christmas days in a row at the airport, I am well aware of the challenge that that poses. So, I certainly want everyone to remember those persons in the uniformed services who have to work during Christmas day, New Year's day, those special days when we would all like to be with our families. I want to wish them a Merry Christmas and a

safe and prosperous New Year, and to all of the persons in the Civil Service.

I would also like to thank the Premier and the Cabinet for bringing some early Christmas cheer to the Civil Service in the form of a 3.2 per cent increase, or reinstatement I should say. I know that civil servants welcome the reinstatement of the 3.2 per cent salary. It has allowed them to buy some gifts for their families and put food on the table as well during this festive season.

I want to also thank all Members here for their kind words and encouragement to me personally. I have enjoyed a tremendous working relationship with everyone here in the House. And, Madam Speaker, I am looking forward to working with you and all of the Members here next year when I take up the post of Deputy Governor.

It would be remiss of me if I did not recognise the current Deputy Governor, Mr. Ebanks, for all of his training and support to me during my career, not just in the Portfolio, but when I was at Immigration, for his teaching and his support. He has reminded me that I can have this Christmas off because he will probably will never work another Christmas in his life—which is a great thing!—so I am looking forward to being at home this Christmas, which is only the second Christmas that I will actually be at home with my family.

Madam Speaker, I will close by again wishing everyone a Merry, merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Deputy Governor.
Honourable Second Official Member.

Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do not intend repeat all that has said. In my profession we say that we adopt the submissions that have been made already. So, I will do that, Madam Speaker.

But there are just two things that I need to emphasise. One is that we should not lose sight of the significance of the season. It is all about sharing and being civil to each other, spreading the joy, helping to spread the love and the cheers. For those of us who are a bit more fortunate it is incumbent on us to ensure that we reach out to those who are less fortunate and allow them to also have a smile on their face for the season.

Thanks to everyone who I have worked with throughout the year. My portfolio, the DPP's [Director of Public Prosecution] office and all the support staff, our three branches of government. It has been a challenging year, Madam Speaker. But we have a lot to be thankful for. The Lord has spared us. We have no problems with hurricanes for the year. We started this House with a full complement and we are ending the House, hopefully, with full complement. All of these

are things that we might take for granted, but we should be thankful for.

So, it is only left for me to with everybody, the entire staff of the Legislative Assembly, including you, Madam Speaker, those in our support services and now emergency services, a wonderful, safe and enjoyable holiday. I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Third Elected Member for West Bay.

Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I think that just about all other Members have spoken, so there is very little left for me to say, except to use this opportunity to with you and your family all the best for the Season, and also to the Clerk and her family and all members of staff, the Serjeant and all other hardworking members of staff that allow us to continue to do our jobs down here day after day.

Madam Speaker, I also want to use this opportunity to wish my colleagues, both the Government side and the Opposition and the Official Members and specifically to give greetings to the Deputy Governor Designate in his first opportunity to share greetings here with us.

Madam Speaker, I too would like to use this opportunity to thank and to express my gratitude and sincere appreciation to my wife and my two sons for all that they have put up with over my 11 years of being blessed as a representative to the people, specifically to the district of West Bay, but to the Cayman Islands overall. As was said earlier by some of my colleagues, the challenges are great and the sacrifices are heavy, and they continue to do it year after year and provide that much needed support for us.

Madam Speaker, I also want to use this opportunity to give special greetings to my parents who are both aged. I know a lot of my colleagues in here have extended greetings especially to my father because of the relationship of having worked with him, obviously getting up in age. I am thankful and very appreciative to still have him and his full faculties, and my mother who I am able to spend another enjoyable Christmas with. I thank God for that and look forward to spending time and want to ensure that they know how much they are loved and appreciated as well.

Madam Speaker, to the people of West Bay who have given me the privilege and honour of serving them, I thank them again and I wish them a safe, happy and blessed Christmas.

And to all of those who have lost loved ones and will have difficult times and memories during this Christmas, we wish God's guidance and blessings on them during their difficult times.

Madam Speaker, it is just left to say that this year has been one filled with many challenges, but as has been said before, 'with challenges come opportu-

nities.' As a country we need to embrace those opportunities and use those opportunities to move forward. I think we saw just a few days ago a great example when we had the Thanksgiving ceremony; the thought by Mr. Sam Rose and the participation by all of the other individuals, celebrating our own Thanksgiving and appreciation for a year of no natural disasters.

Madam Speaker, there was no ignorance to the fact that we have our challenges and that times are tough. But it was just to show that even in these tough times we have a lot to be thankful for. And while it is easy for us to forget that and to continue to complain, hopefully this time of celebrating the birth of Christ will be a time for us to spend in appreciation, spending time with our loved ones and those most in need, and trying to spread some joy and happiness to our fellow man.

With that, Madam Speaker, I express love and appreciation and greetings to all during this time and for a safe, prosperous and happy New Year.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: I am not going to add a lot to what was said, but I do feel constrained to say a few words.

I want to say thank you on behalf of myself and my family for all of the kind words spoken here today. On behalf of my staff, I think that sometimes we forget how very small this department is and the numerous demands made on it from right across the entire country—not just the legislators, but everywhere. I am particularly grateful for their faithfulness in getting the job done and in seeing that everything is done on time.

I am extremely pleased at the amount of peace and good will that is floating around the Chamber this afternoon. I am hoping that we will carry it forward into the New Year and bring it back here at the next sitting when we will all get together and work for this country that we all love so much.

I believe that before we do anything or say anything about the Cayman Islands we should first give God thanks that we are here and that this country that we live in is one of the most blessed on earth, not just at Christmas, but all year through.

It has been a challenging year. But at my stage in life challenges are just part of another day. And I have enjoyed every step of the way. I do want to thank everyone for making this journey, this year, a positive one for me, for supporting me and at times even criticising me, but for just being here and working together to build a better Cayman.

May God bless us all at this Season; bless your families; bless us across this country and help us all to remember to be thankful always.

Honourable Premier, may I have a motion for adjournment?

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I too am glad that so much good will has been passed. I hope it keeps up now the whole year of the New Year. I am very, very, very pleased to move the adjournment of this honourable House sine die.

The Speaker: The question is that this honourable House do adjourn sine die.

All those in favour please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

At 5.43 pm the House stood adjourned sine die.

