

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
THURSDAY
4 NOVEMBER 2010
10.53 AM
Second Sitting

The Speaker: I will ask the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to say Prayers.

PRAYERS

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts, Leader of the Opposition: 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: Please be seated.
 Proceedings are resumed.

**READING BY THE HONOURABLE
 SPEAKER OF MESSAGES
 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Apologies

The Speaker: I have no new messages or announcements.

I would remind the House that the Honourable Second Official Member is absent and is at a confer-

ence. Member for East End is absent; he is attending the funeral in Barbados, as is the [Honourable] Deputy Premier, who is absent for the same reason.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS
 AND OF REPORTS**

**Tax Information Authority (Tax Information
 Agreements) (No.2) Order, 2010**

The Speaker: Honourable Premier.

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

Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this honourable House the Tax Information Authority Law (2009 Revision), the Tax Information Authority (Tax Information Agreements) (No. 2) Order, 2010.

The Speaker: So ordered.

Does the Honourable Premier wish to speak thereto?

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: No thank you, Madam Speaker, I will be moving a motion later.

The Speaker: Thank you sir.

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

The Speaker: I have no notice of any statements by honourable Members or Ministers of the Cabinet.

OTHER BUSINESS

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

**Private Member's Motion No. 7/2010-11—
 Amendment of Standing Orders in accordance
 with Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009
 (Deferred)**

The Speaker: Third Elected Member for George Town.

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Madam Speaker, following discussions with the Deputy Governor who, by virtue of the Standing Orders themselves, is Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee, I am moving the deferral of that motion until later in the business of this

House in order that certain proposed amendments may be drafted and presented to you and to Members in advance of the motion actually coming to the Floor of the House.

The Speaker: Yes, Third [Elected] Member for George Town, is your microphone on?

I am going to state here now for the record of this House. I understand that this motion is coming on some report that was done by the Constitutional Commission, which, as I understand, was given to the press and recorded on some website. To date, this Parliament has not even been paid the courtesy of having that report. I am not sure the reason for that, but I do want it recorded because it is a slap in the face of this Parliament when something is done outside of its doors and discussed publicly concerning it and no statement or no regard is given to providing us with a report of the same.

Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts. Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg to second the deferral motion.

The Speaker: You did ask for the motion to be deferred, I don't think that requires a vote.

The question is that Private Member's Motion No. 7/2010-11 be deferred for another date within this Meeting.

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

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Private Member's Motion No. 7/2010-11 deferred until a later sitting.

The Speaker: Madam Clerk.

**Private Member's Motion No. 8/2010-11—
Reallocation of Executive Expenditure to provide
for more Financial Assistance**

The Speaker: Third Elected Member for George Town.

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: I beg to move Private Member's Motion No. 8/2010-11 entitled: Reallocation of Executive Expenditure to provide for more Financial Assistance.

The Motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS there is an increased demand by persons for financial assistance from the Cayman Islands Government;

AND WHEREAS Government is presently encountering difficulties in meeting this increased demand;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Government considers reallocating some of the funds in the current Budget in order to increase the present provision for financial assistance to needy persons in the Cayman Islands."

The Speaker: Is there a seconder for that Motion?

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts. Leader of the Opposition: Yes, Madam Speaker, I beg to second the Motion.

The Speaker: The Motion has been duly moved and seconded. It is now open for debate.

Does the mover wish to speak thereto?

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Yes, Madam Speaker, thank you.

Madam Speaker, it goes without saying that these are difficult, hard, painful economic times, and that everyone in this country and indeed most people around the world are feeling the brunt of the worst global recession in 70 years. The hardest hit in these times are always those who are most vulnerable, those who are living day to day; living in many instances a hand-to-mouth existence [and] who find it difficult even in good times, many of them, to get employment, and in times such as these [they] find it almost impossible.

There's also another group, Madam Speaker, who are truly at risk, the elderly, the sick, the disabled, and children. We all know very well that the Cayman Islands do not have a comprehensive safety net to deal with people who need assistance. We don't have a comprehensive all-inclusive welfare system. The country wasn't built that way and I am certainly not seeking to encourage that we adopt that sort of mentality at all. But we always have been—and long may that continue—a caring society that does its very best to look after those who are unable to look after themselves or unable to look after themselves adequately.

So, Madam Speaker, over time what was once a relatively small operation, which became the Department of Social Services, is now the Department of Children and Family Services. And that Department is largely responsible for looking after those in the community who have a range of issues, problems or needs. And, Madam Speaker, that Department is allocated funding through the budgetary process in this House when the budget is debated and passed. This Department now falls under the Minister for Community Affairs, Gender and Housing.

Madam Speaker, all of us who are representatives, particularly those of us who have been around for some time, understand full well the level of need and indeed in many cases, poverty, that exists in pockets of this community. We know full well because we face it every single day and when you have been around a while the people in the community come to know you as a Representative and are therefore much more comfortable in talking to you about their needs

and asking for assistance. So, in this way, we in this House know, or ought to know, what is going on in the community in these difficult times.

I know, Madam Speaker, that the Minister of Community Affairs is keenly aware of how desperate the situation is in many instances, because I talk to him every so often when I need assistance for someone in the community, and in the short time he has been there he has always been most helpful and accommodating, and I wish to applaud him for that.

Madam Speaker, it is clear to me, based on information I keep getting, that there is a shortfall in the level of the funding that is available for financial assistance in Government. And that many of my constituents—indeed I have even seen constituencies other than George Town asking for help in getting access to Government's financial assistance—often have to wait weeks, sometimes months, before they are able to get an appointment to have their needs assessed. And my sources tell me that in many cases, that is not because of an unavailability of staff; it is because the staff know full well that they don't have the wherewithal to provide the number of food vouchers [or] assistance with rent, and a range of other needs that the people in the community are becoming increasingly desperate for.

We all know that unemployment is probably at an all-time high in Cayman because of the state of the economy. Therefore, more and more people are feeling the immense pressure in just keeping a roof over their heads and something to eat on the table, let alone the range of other things that go along with providing for children in this community.

So, Madam Speaker, this Motion is about asking the Government to consider the reallocation of some of the funding presently provided for in the budget to the Ministry of Community Affairs, Gender and Housing, to enable the Minister to give additional funding to the Department and those agencies which actually work in the community providing care, accommodation, food, housing to the very needy, the most vulnerable in this community.

Madam Speaker, it is not just that there has been an increased demand, which I think we all could have predicted; it is also because the budget for these subjects under that Ministry was significantly cut when the budget was approved back in June of this year. And that has no doubt contributed significantly to the pressure and the problems and the level of desperation that exist now among people who can't get access to financial assistance in this community.

Madam Speaker, I spent a little time overnight just having a look and comparing what was projected as having been spent in the last financial year, compared to what is provided for in this year's budget. This is not a full list by any means but just to give you an idea:

- Rental accommodation for persons in need was reduced from \$1 million and a

quarter to \$1,150,000 this year; a \$100,000 reduction.

- Therapeutic services for young people from \$150,000 to \$30,000; a \$120,000 reduction.
- Support for battered women and children, from \$300,000 to \$270,000; \$130,000 reduction.
- Support for foster care children, from \$262,000 to \$225,000; a \$37,000 reduction.
- General programmes and children services, from \$140,000 to \$126,000, a \$14,000 reduction.
- Care of the indigent, elderly, and disabled persons, reduced from \$1.9 million to \$1.6 million roughly; \$180,000 reduction.
- School lunches and uniform programmes, from \$995,900 to \$805,950; \$189,950 reduction.
- A support for CODACs (Community Development Action Committees), from \$100,000 to \$35,000; \$65,000 deduction.
- Supervision and support of children reduced from \$2,236,567 to \$2,050,662; \$185,905 reduction.
- Counseling and support services reduced from \$4.4 million to \$4.2 million roughly; \$130,000 reduction.

But the real big one Madam Speaker, and the one which I think is creating the biggest problems is the reduction in the money available to administration of community assistance programmes which has been reduced from \$5,935,467 to \$4,692,599; a reduction of over \$1 million. And I am confident, Madam Speaker, that that is at the root of this problem that is occurring with the access by the community to leave the people of the community to the level of financial assistance which they need.

Madam Speaker, we all know that Government has been, and continues to be, under major pressure, under stress to reduce the level of expenditure which it incurs. And no doubt it will be a challenge for the Government to find the money to move around.

But, Madam Speaker, there is one area in particular which is on the lips of just about everybody in the community, not just because of the amount of money that is being spent on executive expenses, but because of the message it sends particularly in difficult times, when those at the very top level of Government appear to be living (I'm trying not to use that colloquial expression) high on the (I better withdraw that and start over); living—

[inaudible interjection]

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: —living in the lap of luxury.

The Fourth Elected Member for West Bay says, "living like he does." But I'm not sure he is in that category; I haven't seen that yet.

Madam Speaker, this causes consternation, frustration and deep resentment when it is perceived by the people in this country that while they are struggling to make ends meet, and when they can't make ends meet and can't get assistance from Government, they see and read about expenses—which they perceive as unnecessary—being incurred by the Government.

They read stories such as the one which appeared on *Cayman News Service* sometime ago on 21st June, that the Premier is not feeling the pain of rising utility bills since the people of the Cayman Islands are paying for them; a Freedom of Information request the Cabinet Office has revealed. The public also paid more than [\$]5,000 for a Christmas lighting display in December at the Bush home, as well as the light bill to run it.

Over the six month period, December 2009 to the end of May 2010, Government funds paid bills for phone, fax, electricity and water, to McKeeva Bush's residence in West Bay, amounting to \$11,451, which included light bills totaling over \$7,600. The people are also paying over \$2,000 per month for a personal housekeeper/cook for the Premier whilst security at the Bush household costs over \$87,000.

Madam Speaker, they then see instances, such as a new SUV being purchased by the Ministry of District Administration as a VIP car for the Deputy Premier. These sorts of instances truly create a great deal of ill-will towards, not just the Government, but to all of us who hold elected office. And it is important that we understand the kind of messages that we send when we appear to be so insensitive in the face of what is for many people a struggle just for their very existence.

So, Madam Speaker, I urge the Government and all Members of this House to carefully consider the present Motion before the House. I understand that I can't, as a private Member, stand here and tell the Government—or even to ask the Government—to make this particular cut, or that particular cut, which is why I have framed the Motion the way I did. I respectfully call on the Government to consider reallocating some of its funding. If it wishes to take it from Protocol, I think that would be a wonderful thing; [or] if they can find the money somewhere else. But let's at least try to get the level of funding for the most vulnerable in this community back to the level it was prior to the present budget.

Madam Speaker, the Premier has recently given what on the face of it is very good news of significant savings being achieved as far as operational expenditure of Government is concerned. And, as I said, on the face of it that is very good news, although I think, like most people around, there is a degree of skepticism until we see exactly how this has been achieved, because the history of Government's finan-

cial, in particular over the last few years, has not been something to be proud of (let me choose my words carefully). But, Madam Speaker, that's discussion for another time, I believe.

I sincerely ask the Government to look carefully at what this Motion is seeking to achieve, to bear in mind, as I know at least some of them do, the most vulnerable in this community and the assistance that additional funding would bring to them in this most difficult of times.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Minister for Community Affairs, Gender and Housing.

Hon. Michael T. Adam: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, as Minister with the responsibility for Community Affairs, Gender and Housing, I've been made aware by my Ministry, together with the Department of Children and Family Services, and they have taken steps for this matter to be addressed by Cabinet in the coming week.

My [members of] staff are preparing a paper to Cabinet requesting approval for supplementary expenditure in light of this matter. I would like to also assure this honourable House that I am acutely aware of the needs of our most vulnerable, and as a priority in particular to our elderly and our children, I will continue to address the issues that arise.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you Honourable Minister.

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

First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell: Thank you, Madam Speaker; just some short comments on the Motion on the Floor.

Madam Speaker, it would be remiss of me if I didn't take the opportunity to speak in support of the Motion, and also to say that I'm extremely happy to hear what the Minister just said about what is going to be forthcoming.

But when you represent a district where 80 to 90 per cent of the income is dependent on Government, when you think of the employment there, it centres around Public Works, District Administration. The Department of Tourism has people on the ground; the Postal Service, Children and Family Services, Museum, Police, Fire, School system, Department of Environmental Health, Department of Labour. So, it is safe to say that every department of Government is represented.

I made some comments months ago about when we look at the needy and the vulnerable and

what was actually going to take place with my constituents in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman when the 3.2 per cent pay decrease took effect. It was then said, and it is now a fact, that if you are working for Government,—which most of my constituents are, and they are dependent on a salary that just barely makes ends meet. And in a lot of cases they are helped on a weekly and monthly basis by Children and Family Services, Madam Speaker. It does not take a lot of mathematical skills to realise that when you take 3.2 per cent away from the salary they are making, that can't make ends meet and you are dependent on Children and Family Services to help you with basic needs—not wants.

It becomes a situation that, as the Minister said, more funding is going to be requested, because the funding needs to be placed in the hands of these people who cannot provide for their families; cannot provide the school lunches; cannot ask for wants, but they come on a daily basis and ask for needs. And I don't believe that I am unique in this, I believe that each one of us sitting in this honourable House here today experiences that on a daily basis.

So, Madam Speaker, just looking at the needs and the immediate request and purpose that this Motion brings to the forefront and has been acknowledged by the Honourable Minister, that more funding is needed, I hope that in the consideration for the funding that it is looked at strategically and not as a band aid, that it is funding that can help people plan for not three months, four months, or five months, but to put their house in order for the next one, two, three, years, the short and medium term, to give them comfort and a feeling that things will be all right.

I see the Premier. I thank you for that acknowledgement.

[inaudible interjection]

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell: So, Madam Speaker, I believe that the Motion is timely and I thank you for the opportunity to speak. I look forward to replies.

The Speaker: Does any other Member wish to speak?

First . . .

Order please.

Second. . .

Order please. Order please!

Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

Mr. Anthony S. Eden: Thank you, Madam Speaker, just to make brief comments on the Motion.

I acknowledge the graciousness of the Minister. I know a number of times I have spoken to him and I would say it has been a long time that I've seen so many people appear to be needing some assistance. Whenever I have the opportunity, between him and my colleagues from Bodden Town, we have been

able to get some assistance and I feel that whatever can be done will be done.

There will always be difficult times and we all know that money is scarce. But, as has been alluded to, those who are most vulnerable among us who really need the help, I ask that we do our best to provide that assistance to them.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

Member for North Side.

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

Just to ask the Member responsible if he could look into the appointment system to deal with this because some of my constituent members are being told that they have to wait two and three months to get an appointment. I don't know whether that is a lack of funding, a lack of staff or a lack of a calendar, but when somebody comes who needs help . . . to tell them that they have to wait until January or February before they can get an appointment to be interviewed and assessed I think it is a bit unreasonable. So, if you could look into that I would appreciate it.

The Speaker: Thank you, Member for North Side.

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 mover of the Motion to exercise his right of reply

[Third Elected] Member for George Town.

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I want to start first by thanking the Minister for Community Affairs for his honest acknowledgement of the problem, and for his undertaking to do something about it. There was no long speech. There was no rhetoric. There was simple acknowledgement [that] it was a problem and an undertaking to do something about it.

There's not much of that in these halls and never has been much of that in these halls. And so when that occurs I believe it ought to be applauded and I do so.

Madam Speaker, I'm grateful to all of my colleagues who have spoken in relation to this matter and I'm grateful to the other Members of the Government for their tacit support and approval of this Motion. I hope that very swiftly we can rectify the situation.

Christmas is hard upon us, and it is at that time in particular that the most vulnerable in the community do feel the pinch even harder than ever as they observe the celebrations of all those around them and are unable themselves to participate, and, even worse, Madam Speaker, unable to provide the nice things for their children. Those of us, who, as I said,

have been around, understand how hard, how poignant, how heart-breaking that is for many families in this community. And this Christmas I fear it is going to be in that respect one of the worst we've had. So, whatever Government can do despite the difficult times, I urge them to do.

Madam Speaker, over the course of the past few years, certainly the last three years that the administration of which I was a part of while in office, an extra effort was made to ensure that the seamen and the veterans and their families got an additional month's cheque at Christmas time for the very reasons that I just spoke about. And difficult though things are, Madam Speaker, I don't think there is anything more important than us looking after those who are least able to look after themselves.

That, I believe, is why Government exists. That is why we are Representatives. And whatever sacrifices have to be made, whatever has to be gone without in other respects from the budget, I believe the Government should make that extra effort this time around to make Christmas just a little brighter for the most vulnerable in this community.

Again, Madam Speaker, my heartfelt thanks to all Members of this House for their support of this Motion.

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

The question is: BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Government considers reallocating some of the funds in the current Budget in order to increase the present provision for financial assistance to needy persons in the Cayman Islands.

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

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

Agreed: Private Member's Motion No. 8/2010-11 passed.

The Speaker: I'm going to ask Members to please speak into your microphones. I think they are set at maximum right now on some of them.

In particular, the microphone for Third Elected Member for George Town does not seem to be carrying the volume it should. So, if you could just speak directly into the microphone it will help with the recording as well as for the listening public and the Members of the House.

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Madam Speaker,

The Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Madam Speaker, the next order of business on the [Order] Paper is another

Private Member's Motion in my name. May I ask for a short suspension of say ten minutes as I need to confer with the seconder of the Motion?

The Speaker: Okay granted.

We will suspend the House for ten minutes.

Proceedings suspended at 11.37 am

Proceedings resumed at 12.23 pm

The Speaker: Proceedings are resumed. Please be seated.

Private Member's Motion No.6/2010-11—Reduction of Work Permit Fees

The Speaker: Third Elected Member for George Town.

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thank you for agreeing to what I hoped would have been a short suspension, but didn't quite turn out that way.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move Private Member's Motion No. 6/2010-11 entitled: Reduction of Work Permit Fees.

Madam Speaker the Motion reads:

WHEREAS in January of 2010 the Government significantly increased work permit fees for most categories of employment in the Cayman Islands;

AND WHEREAS these increases were made in the middle of worldwide recession which was and still is seriously and adversely impacting the Cayman Islands economy and small businesses in particular;

AND WHEREAS recent Government statistics show a marked decline in the number of work permit holders in the Cayman Islands since the said increases were imposed;

AND WHEREAS many businesses in the Cayman Islands are under financial pressure;

AND WHEREAS the Cabinet of the Cayman Islands has recently reduced the fees which employers must pay for a key employee application by 50%;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Government considers reducing the fees for all work-permits in the Cayman Islands to the levels which obtained prior to January, 2010, in order to assist businesses in the Cayman Islands and to stimulate the economy.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Is there a seconder to the Motion?

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Madam Speaker, I beg to second the Motion.

The Speaker: The Motion is open for debate. Does the Member wish to speak thereto?

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Yes, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, an examination carried out pursuant to a Freedom of Information request of the Immigration Department's records in September of this year, revealed that more than 2,100 people employed here on work permits had left the Islands since the middle of March.

Madam Speaker, in December of 2008 the total number of work permits held by foreign nationals in Cayman stood at some 26,517, according to Immigration records. Between the middle of March and the middle of September this year, the total number of work permits, including government contracts held by foreign nationals in Cayman, dropped to 20,958.

Madam Speaker, between December and March there had been a fall-off as well so that by March there were only some 23,105 work permits and so the number I just mentioned (20,958 in September) is an indication of what has become a trend since 2008.

Now, Madam Speaker, I am not seeking to say that it is the significant increase in work permit fees first revealed in the Government's budget in October of last year and imposed in the middle of January this year, that that is the main cause of this fall-off in work permits. The root cause is the cause of just about all of the problems we are having and the rest of the world is having now—a slow down in the economy; a major fall-off in the economy. The issue is what should Government have done and even leaving that aside, what should Government now do, faced with overwhelming evidence that there is a continued slide in the number of work permits.

Madam Speaker, you see we have this dichotomy, apparently, in the Government's economic theory, and that is this: On the one hand, at virtually every possible opportunity the Premier speaks passionately about the need for immigration reform, the need for improvement in the way the Department of Immigration works, and [how] the Board works. I think yesterday he threatened the firing of members of various immigration boards because things have to be done more efficiently, more effectively, and better. And unless we roll out (I think he calls it the green carpet) this carpet and make the place more attractive and make our systems more efficient we are never going to be able to stem or staunch the haemorrhaging of businesses from the economy. We have that on one hand.

And on the other hand we have government policy of significantly increasing the cost of doing business here at, certainly, all of the first meetings of this administration's term, starting with the budget in October.

Madam Speaker, as a result of the revenue measures which were imposed in October, the work permit increases (which came into effect in January of

this year) in many instances tripled the cost of work permits in these Islands and there is, or there can be, or there should be, little doubt that this has had a negative impact on what was already a bad situation in relation to the economy.

Madam Speaker, the Government said and I'm sure they will say when they respond again, that they had to do it. I think at the time the Honourable Premier was reported as having said, *We did what we had to do*. And he alluded in the past to pressures being brought to bear by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Minister, in particular, in charge of the Overseas Territories in relation to us trying to get back to a balanced budget. So that is why the revenue had to be enhanced. And, hard a pill as it was to swallow, he didn't have a choice.

But, Madam Speaker, as the results have borne out, it is one thing to predict or project increases in revenue as a result of increased fees and taxes on paper, and quite another thing to actually effect increases in revenue by those measures.

At the time the Leader of the Opposition in his address said that it was absolutely the wrong thing to do to increase revenue measures, increase fees and taxes in the middle (well we hoped it was the middle) of the worst global recession the world had seen in 70 years. But, Madam Speaker, the Government did not see fit to agree with us. We were the culprits of the situation. They said then, and say now, therefore, nothing that we said should be relied upon or acted upon.

Well, Madam Speaker, I have brought this Motion today because in addition to the rumbling I hear around the UDP camp about it, which is encouraging, the Government actually has taken a positive step in reducing the key employee application fee by 50 per cent. So, obviously, at least some part of the message has gotten through and the Government has acted in that regard.

So, Madam Speaker, encouraged an emboldened by that indication, I have brought this Motion today to ask the Government again to give careful consideration to reducing the fees on work permits, rolling them back to the pre-January levels; not asking for anything radical.

You see, Madam Speaker, even though the Premier has finally responded to a question asked in this House by the Leader of the Opposition at the last meeting about the state of Government finances, and he has also spoken publicly about the Government's achievements, he says, in having significantly reduced the operational deficit, when one examines the actual response one realises that on the revenue end of the spectrum the performance of the revenue measures as against the projected revenue is not good at all.

The Speaker: Member for George Town, I hate to interrupt you, but we did get a late start on this part of the sitting. I have been asked by the Government to do a suspension for the lunch break until 3.30 be-

cause they have a previous commitment they have to take care of. I don't like to interrupt your speech but at this time I do need to do so for their convenience.

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I understand they are jetting off, but they haven't invited us so we will have to have lunch by ourselves.

The Speaker: I'll be here.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, to explain to this House, since the Member just sitting down likes to throw allegations around—and you know he is not going to tell the truth.

The Speaker: Let's not go there.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Well, somebody should go there.

The Speaker: Ah—

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, WestJet makes its inaugural flight into these Islands today. As Minister, I am invited by Cayman Airways to come and do my role. And I think they invited, as far as I know, everybody to be there.

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: No such invitation to the Opposition, Madam Speaker.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: *[Inaudible]* . . . but I *naw gah miss yuh, yuh na!*

The Speaker: That will do. We will suspend the sitting of the House until 3.30. Thank you all very much.

Proceedings suspended at 12.39 pm

Proceedings resumed at 3.51 pm

The Speaker: Proceedings are resumed. Please be seated.

When we took the break the Third Elected Member for George Town was on his feet presenting his Motion, Reduction of Work Permit Fees. I would ask him to continue at this time.

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, as I recall, I had just started to turn to the answer to the parliamentary question asked by the Leader of the Opposition at the last meeting, in relation to the state of government finances, and to the response from the Premier in which he gave some good news, apparently, in relation to the reduction in operational expenditure of the Government. But he also acknowledged that for the

year ending the 30 June 2010, there had been a \$60 million shortfall in the originally projected revenue for that year.

In other words, Madam Speaker, the increases in fees and taxes, which had been imposed during the Budget session in October of 2009, had not had the expected or desired outcome in terms of yield. I mentioned that, Madam Speaker, simply again to point to the concerns we had, which we have expressed in this House on a number of occasions, and to renew our call on the Government to give consideration to reducing, to rolling back the work permit fees to their pre-January 2010 levels.

It is not just about government revenue. And, as I said, based on the answer that has been provided, I do not believe that the Government can get up and cheer about how well the revenue measures have performed. Some would say that that ought to have been obvious, that in a time when—

Point of Order

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, on a point of order. The matter is irrelevant. The Member is continuing . . . rather than to debate the Motion that he has, he is continuing to talk about the budget. And, Madam Speaker, I would think he would have to make reference, but, certainly, he has gone more in depth about what they said and what they would like to be done, and he is not debating that Motion.

That's my opinion from what I read in the Standing Orders. Madam Speaker, I await your ruling.

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: It's relevant; that's why it makes you uncomfortable.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Makes me uncomfortable?

The Speaker: Please do not exchange comments across the floor. That makes me uncomfortable.

[laughter]

The Speaker: Perhaps someone might like to refer me to the particular Standing Order.

[inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: Pardon me?

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, [it is] the Standing Order that deals with relevance.

The Speaker: Well, I shall look until I find it.

[pause]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, perhaps I can help here since I raised it.

The relevance is in the scope of debate, Madam Speaker. **“Except on a motion of the adjournment of the House, the debate shall be relevant to question before the House . . .”** That’s [SO 36] (1), but also I think [Standing Order] (35)(2) applies: **“It is out of order to attempt to revive in any debate a matter or reconsider any specific question upon which the House has come to a conclusion during the current session, except upon a substantive motion of rescission.”**

[inaudible interjection]

The Speaker: Thank you.

There is . . .

Please continue, Third Elected Member for George Town, but please keep your debate on the Motion you have before the House as much as possible. Thank you.

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Madam Speaker, grateful to you and your ruling.

Madam Speaker, just so I may explain the basis of what I’m doing. The Motion before the House is asking the Government to consider reducing the fees for all work permits in the Cayman Islands to the levels which were obtained prior to January 2010. Now, Madam Speaker, those fees were increased by the budget and subsequent legislation passed in the last session of this House. So, not only in my submission am I entitled to refer to it, but I don’t see how I can properly debate the issue without the reference back to what occurred. But I won’t belabour the point beyond that, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: I’m not trying to curtail your debate, I am saying please keep it relevant to the subject.

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: I understand, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to say that for the benefit of the House and those who may be listening to this debate. Thank you.

Madam Speaker, I was saying that it is not just about the revenue situation for the Government and whether or not this has had the desired effect. It is perhaps even more importantly about the impact that this has had, and is having, on the economy, particularly on the fortunes of businesses, especially small businesses.

The Speaker: May I interrupt?

For the benefit of the House the Standing Orders 41(1) **“The Presiding Officer, after having called the attention of the House, or of a Committee, to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance or tedious repetition, either of his own**

arguments or of the arguments used by the other Members, may direct the Member to discontinue his speech and to resume his seat.” That is the correct Standing Order. I’m sorry to interrupt you but I thought we needed to get it straight. You may continue.

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: I feared for a moment Ma’am that you were discontinuing my speech.

[laughter]

The Speaker: I am not discontinuing your speech. I am telling you to not come with tedious repetitions.

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Yes Ma’am. Thank you.

So, Madam Speaker, as I was saying, it is not just about the revenue situation; it’s also about the impact on businesses. And there is, or can be, I believe, little argument in the face of the evidence which has accumulated over the course of the past few months, that businesses, particularly small businesses, are having a very difficult time, are feeling increased pressure from the sluggish economy and from the operational costs that they have to incur just to keep their doors open. And a significant part of that for many businesses is the cost of work permits.

Madam Speaker, if I may perhaps give an indication as to the impact that these work permit increases have had on some key areas of employment, or, I should say, some key jobs or occupations:

- A work permit for a secretary has more than tripled under the new fee increases. It has gone from \$1,100 per year to some \$3,500 per year.
- Work permits for accountants who have professional certification climbed from some \$7,500 per year to \$10,500 per year.
- Those who do not have a professional certification, the fee doubled from \$4,000 per year to \$8,000 per year.
- In most professional job categories the permits saw a \$3,000 per year fee increase.
- Attorney permits went up by \$5,000 per year; paralegals by \$5,250.
- Most executive level marketing positions saw work permit increases of \$4,000 per year so that those permits are around \$8,000 per annum.
- Increases in the banking and financing industry saw, on average, a \$3,000 per year increase in most upper level management categories.
- Human resource administrators and so forth, the work permit has gone up some \$4,000 per year.

- In the construction industry, permit fees for most of the blue collar jobs went up about \$500 a year. And those for electricians, wiremen, linemen and so forth, actually fell by a few hundred per year.
- Tourism industry saw increases between \$1,700 and \$3,000 per year.
- Hospitality workers saw increases of around \$500 per year with some going up as much as \$750 per year.

So, Madam Speaker, I don't believe that anyone, no matter how strongly they support what the Government felt it had to do, can seriously argue that there have not been significant increases and that these significant increases have not had the negative effect on growth in the economy and on the ability of many businesses to be able to just keep going, let alone, turn a profit.

Madam Speaker, on 28 May of this year [2010] there was a story which appeared in the *Caymanian Compass* entitled: "**Local Business Owners Struggling**" and with your permission I would just like to read a short excerpt from it to give a flavour to this House and to the Government, in particular, of what actually businesses and business persons out there are feeling. The story:

"Cayman Islands small business owners told Immigration Department officials Wednesday that several recent government decisions are making a tough economic situation worse, and a few said they might be forced to close down during what is likely to be a long, slow summer.

"The economy is exacerbating these immigration issues' said Cayman Architectural Design owner, Eddie Thompson. 'And the immigration fees are the final nail in the coffin.'

"Mr. Thompson told the hundreds gathered for a Chamber of Commerce meeting with the top immigration officials Wednesday afternoon at the Westin Casuarina Resort (which by the way, Madam Speaker, we learned today sadly about the face foreclosure) that his five person company had been reduced to just two people—himself and one employee. He said newly increased work permit fees combined with Caymanian training requirements were simply not feasible for a business that size.

"I cannot physically do this,' he said. '(I'm) at the point where closing my doors and seeking employment is a more viable option.'

"Earlier this year the Cayman Islands Government approved the increases to work permit fees that averaged about \$3,000 more per year for professional classes of employees.

"Work permits are required for every foreign employee who comes to Cayman.

"Another local business owner, Morgan Dacosta of Maedac, said some of the fee in-

creases had him paying \$8,000 a year just to hire an inventory clerk.

"That's absolutely ridiculous,' Mr. Dacosta said, adding that it appeared Government was focusing only on helping the financial services industry and 'not the people who actually live here.'"

So, Madam Speaker, there can, as I said, be little question that this has had a real adverse impact on businesses.

Madam Speaker, when the story initially broke in January about the implementation of the increases, the business sector reacted, or responded, to these increases, and someone who I see these days regularly, a spokesperson for the Government, Mr. Anthony Travers, was actually appearing in the *Caymanian Compass*, written by Brent Fuller. But the important bit of that, Madam Speaker, is that Mr. Travers is reported to have said then that the work permit fee increases need not be made permanent. And when the Cayman Islands Government makes the essential cuts to the expenditure, obviously, the work permit fees can be reviewed in light of competition from other jurisdictions.

Now, Madam Speaker, the Premier has recently indicated—in fact, he has stated—that it is as a result of his and his Government's hard work that they have significantly reduced expenditure across Government. And if the answers to the parliamentary questions which were posed by the Leader of the Opposition (to which I earlier referred) are to be believed, then that would indeed appear to be the case. And so, Madam Speaker, I believe that that condition, if I may call it that, imposed or referred to by Mr. Travers, of cuts in government expenditure allowing the reduction in fees, I believe is a condition that has been met.

Madam Speaker, it is absolutely critical. I know that the Members on the Government side of this House do know, do understand, whatever they may say otherwise publicly, that businesses, particularly small businesses out there, are really in trouble, and that anything that can be done to assist them by reducing their cost of doing business is going to be something that is going to be really welcomed and is going to have a really positive impact and effect on those businesses and consequently on the overall economy.

The Premier has said, correctly, more than once, that the fall in the population (as a result of people going home or being sent home, as the case may be, or work permits not being renewed) has had, and is continuing to have a really stifling effect on the economy. I read something he said recently: "We need more people to create more demand for products and services." Absolutely right!

And so, Madam Speaker, I invite the Government to seriously reconsider this particular aspect of its raft of revenue measures imposed over the course of the last year plus, year and a half almost now, and to reconcile it with the oft-stated policy posi-

tion of the Government articulated most often by the Premier about rolling out the green carpet, as he calls it; about making the Cayman Islands a more attractive place to do business by improving immigration and immigration reform and immigration processes and attitudes to people who come here to live, work, stay long term.

The two really go hand in hand in a climate such as the one we have to operate in now where demand is really, really elastic. Persons are not having permits renewed, not so much because they may not be needed, but because when the business owner weighs up the cost of an \$8,000 work permit against the benefits that they perceive their business will derive from keeping that person on, often the permit does not get renewed.

So, you know, this is a case where rhetoric actually must be accompanied by real action on the part of the Government to achieve the result which they say they are, and we believe they are, seeking. I don't doubt for a moment, whatever my stance may be in relation to any actions of the Government, that the Government . . . I don't believe for a moment that they are not trying and that they don't seek to make things better and to make the economy better. I do believe that that is what they are seeking. This, Madam Speaker, is a wonderful opportunity for the Government to send a clear message that says, *Listen, we tried something, we have to adjust it*, in the same way, Madam Speaker, and with the same reasonableness and thought and consideration which went into the Government's consideration of the Motion that just passed on reallocating funding.

I invite the Government to adopt a similar approach to what is sought in this Motion, and hope that the House can be unanimous on taking positive steps to improve the economy, to improve the prospects of small business; to get more people working, to get more people renting apartments and purchasing food from the stores and going to the restaurants, and getting the economy moving again.

So, Madam Speaker, with that introduction of the Motion, I will now resume my seat and listen to what other Members of this House have to say.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Third 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?

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

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: Madam Speaker, I believe you can only exercise the right of reply when there is something to reply to.

Madam Speaker, I hope that the silence from the Government Bench indicates tacit support for this

Motion, and I look forward to another unanimous vote of Aye to this very important Motion.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The question is: BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Government considers reducing the fees for all work-permits in the Cayman Islands to the levels which obtained prior to January, 2010, in order to assist businesses in the Cayman Islands and to stimulate the economy. All those in favour, please say Aye. Those against, No.

Ayes and one audible Noe.

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.: May we have a division, Madam Speaker?

The Speaker: Yes, Third Elected Member for George Town.

Madam Clerk.

The Deputy Clerk:

Division No. 19 /2010-11

Ayes: 5

Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin
Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell
Mr. Anthony S Eden
Mr. V. Arden McLean
Mr. D. Ezzard Miller

Noes: 6

Hon. W. McKeever Bush
Hon. Michael T. Adam
Hon. J. Mark P Scotland
Capt. Eugene A. Ebanks
Mr. Ellio A. Solomon
Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour

The Speaker: The result of the Division: 6 Noes and 5 Ayes.

Private Member's Motion No. 6/2010-11 Negatived.

Private Member's Motion No. 4/2010-11—Duty Concessions

The Speaker: Member for North Side.

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

Madam Speaker, I wish to move Private Member's Motion No. 4/2010-11 entitled: "Duty Concessions."

WHEREAS Government often authorises duty concessions to potential developers in order to attract their investment to the Cayman Islands;

AND WHEREAS these duty concessions are either, complete waiver of duty, a reduction in duty or deferred duty, on goods to be imported into the Cayman Islands;

AND WHEREAS these developers are allowed to import their goods themselves depriving the local merchants and local economy from any participation or benefits;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT all such duty waivers to developers require that they shall purchase their goods locally to obtain

such duty waivers as have been authorised by the Government.

The Speaker: Is there a seconder for this Motion?
Member for East End. Welcome back.

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

The Speaker: The Motion is open for debate. Does the Member wish to speak thereto?

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
Madam Speaker, duty concession has been a carrot that has been used by many governments for a long time in this country to attract potential investors to the Cayman Islands for development purposes, usually for two main reasons: the hope that development will contribute to the local economy, either providing jobs, and also to contribute to government's revenue through the various fees that they may have to pay.

As the Motion suggests, these concessions are usually in one of three forms, either a complete waiver of duty, a proportional waiver of duty (some reduction in the amount as specified under the Schedules in the Customs Law), or a deferment of the duty to some later date to be repaid on some agreed format.

Now, Madam Speaker, the current format that exists is that once these developers are given this concession for the development, they are then allowed to import themselves the various building materials, furniture, fixtures that they will use in this development bypassing the local economy completely.

And, Madam Speaker, I've had representation from many of the businesses in the Cayman Islands who believe that a better way of offering these same inducements, particularly with duty concessions to potential investors or developers, would be to have them buy the product locally and then claim the duty back for those items from central government. Because when the local supplier brings in the goods they would pay the duty, have the item in stock, the developer can go there, buy it, or if it is a special order product, the local supplier can order it and have it in stock.

Once they pay the local supplier . . . this is a very important part of it because some of these more recent developments that we have had in this country, from the information I have, is that many of the local merchants have no interest in dealing with them because they don't pay their bills. But if they had to pay the local merchant for their goods, the local merchants could give them a figure that relates to the duty on that particular product, which they would be entitled to claim back from government.

The other thing that happens currently, as I understand it, is that there is no agreed or certified list of items that these developers are allowed to import in

specified quantities. They simply order the stuff. When it comes here they tell the Customs officers *It is for project A and we have duty concessions on it*, and if it is completely duty-free they don't pay any duty or they pay the reduced amount. And oftentimes the Customs officers are expected to make a judgment and actually accept without any list that was agreed on to compare for this duty that it is in fact for that project.

Oftentimes they will say to me, *You know, this container has in it a \$5,000 jacuzzi tub, and they say it is for this particular project, but I have no real way of knowing whether it is for this project or it is for the person's private house or some other development that he is using.* There are allegations floating around the community that some people abuse this privilege and bring in materials and use them on other projects.

So, I believe that if we had an agreement . . . In the American situation they get a Mill List for the property. Under the British system they get a quantity surveyor to certify that these particular quantities of materials are to be used on this particular site. And that should be all that they should be allowed to import.

Madam Speaker, the two developers who seemed to have gotten the most recent concessions is Doctor Shetty, [for the] Health City, which according to correspondence I have seen is somewhere in the region of \$160 million. I think the other development is called Dragon Bay, which was given somewhere in the region of [\$]40 to [\$]50 million. So, we are looking at somewhere around \$200 million. And if those two projects alone, if that \$200 million was spent in the local economy that would have tremendous multiplier affect and probably . . . while I'm not an economist, Madam Speaker, I'm certain that it would represent at least a half of a billion, somewhere between \$500 million and \$700 million, with a multiplier effect in the local economy, as I see it.

These small, medium, even the larger businesses in the Cayman Islands could well benefit from this kind of business because they are the ones who are paying the government fees. They are the ones who are employing Caymanians, paying their pension for them, paying their health insurance. And when it is completely bypassed by some developer because we allow them to do it, I think, Madam Speaker, it is not helping the people. Because, the whole purpose of trying to attract these developers in the first place is that it is going to be of some benefit to Cayman and Caymanians.

Moment of Interruption—4.30 pm

The Speaker: Excuse me, Member for North Side, I need to interrupt. We need a motion to either adjourn the House or to continue the debate at this point; it's 4.30.

Mr. Premier, may I ask what we are going to do? Are we going to . . .

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I said we were going to adjourn at 4.30.

Before that, Madam Speaker . . . [inaudible]. I was going to wait until she called but . . .

The Speaker: Would you move the motion please?

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I had to [inaudible]

The Speaker: I understand that but you have to move the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I move the adjournment of this honourable House until 10 am tomorrow.

The Speaker: The Honourable Premier has asked permission to make a statement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Explanation of WestJet Toronto Inaugural Flight

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, this is more of an explanation.

When we were taking the break to attend the inauguration of the West Jet, Toronto/Cayman flight—

The Speaker: Just a minute, Mr. Premier, please.

There is something going on in here, either somebody's phone is on and it is picking up messages from outside . . . maybe it is on silent, but it is interrupting the proceedings. Both Members on the Opposition have had their speeches interrupted and now we are having interruptions again. I'm asking [you] to please turn the cell phones off.

Mr. Premier, please continue.

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

As I was saying when we were taking the break to attend the inauguration of the West Jet, Toronto/Cayman flight, the Third [Elected] Member for George Town said that the Opposition was not invited and that the Premier had given instructions for them not to be invited.

Madam Speaker, I checked on this matter over that period, and I do have a note with attachment from Gina Matthews, the PR Manager, Department of Tourism, showing what she says to be correct.

She said: "Invitations to the WestJet Inaugural ceremony were sent to the following Members of the Opposition: Mr. Kurt Tibbetts, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Arden McLean, Mr. Moses Kirkconnell, [and] Mr. Anthony Eden. Additionally, Mr. Ezzard Miller, the independent Member of the House was also invited. I was advised that the invitations to Messrs Tibbetts, McLaughlin, McLean and Kirkconnell bounced back.

They were sent to a *Government.ky* email address that is apparently no longer in service. In light of this, I gave the instructions to recall the invitation that was sent to Mr. Eden. It is my understanding that the email had not been read at the time of the recall. I have been advised today that Mr. Kirkconnell's invitation subsequently went through but he did not respond or RSVP. Mr. Ezzard Miller's invitation went through and he responded that he would not be able to attend.

"I sincerely apologise if my action has caused offence or undue consequence to the Ministry or to the Office of the Honourable Premier. This was certainly not my intention. I fully accept all responsibility for this error in judgment and I'm willing to extend my apologies to each Member of the Opposition so that there can be full disclosure that the error was mine."

Madam Speaker, I think the PR Manager well outlined what actually happened, and I am going to lay it on the Table because it has the attachments where it shows that she sent those emails.

But the part that I must complain about, Madam Speaker, is that the Third Elected Member for George Town continues to fabricate these unjust deliberate untruths. And I am asking him to be more responsible and stop this tirade of fabrications designed to hurt Members of this honourable House.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I lay it on the Table of this honourable House.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam . . .

The Speaker: Member for East End.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Thank you.

Madam Speaker, I accept the apologies from the young lady. I think it is a lady. I absolutely accept it. However, Madam Speaker, I lay responsibility for that squarely on the shoulders of the Government in that as soon as we demitted office on 27 May 2009, we were removed from the Government email.

During our tenure in Government, all of the LA [Members] had government emails. Now I would implore the Premier to ensure that those emails are reinstated in order that we don't get this kind of mistake in the future.

More importantly, Madam Speaker, there are numerous occasions when our addresses are done incorrectly from all departments of Government, even Protocol [Office], where it should be done properly. So somebody in the Government needs to look into it and respect the positions that the Members on this opposite side hold.

Madam Speaker, the Legislative Assembly staff knows each and every one of us and they don't hear any complaints from us about emails from them, nor our mail address, nor the way we are addressed. Madam Speaker, the time has come, I believe, to ensure that the positions of Members of Parliament are respected, whether they are on the Government side, on the majority, or the Opposition side, the minority

Opposition side. It is time it is respected in order that proper communication is done in this country. And I would implore the Premier to look into this and to instruct that it be done.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Honourable Premier, would you—

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, when I demitted office in 2005 I simply contacted all the relevant departments that I would normally have some contact with to let them know what my address was. They always had a telephone number for me and that was kept. They knew what my post office box was and, of course, they would send mail to me here at the Assembly.

I don't think it is my responsibility, but I agree with the Member, so what I would do is to add that to the long, long, l-o-n-g list of things that I have to do.

[inaudible interjections]

The Speaker: This is not supposed to be a debate or a back and forth thing; it's on the adjournment motion.

I will ask the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, since we do have everyone's correct address and emails, to send them to the Protocol Office for circulation to all Government Departments.

Member for North Side, please do not prolong this.

Mr. D. Ezzard Miller: It's not the matter of prolonging but just a matter of clarity for my own sake. Are we going to continue with Private Members' Business tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock or are we going to deal with Government Business?

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, none of the Bills would have the 21 days that we are trying to adhere to. Therefore, we are doing other Government Business as on the agenda, and I think questions. Hopefully, the administration has some questions ready and a Government Motion and then after that we would continue with the balance of the Private Members' Motions.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The question before the House is that this honourable House do adjourn until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning to continue the business on the [Order] Paper and several Private Members' Motions which are being continued from today.

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

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

At 4.41 pm the House stood adjourned until 10 am Friday, 5 November 2010.