

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
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2.57 PM
Seventh Sitting

The Speaker: I will ask the Honourable Minister for Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture to offer prayers this afternoon.

Housing] will be late. And, of course, the Member for North Side is absent still, as he is away at a conference in the UK.

PRAYERS

Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland: 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.

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

Apologies

The Speaker: I have just two announcements: The Leader of the Opposition is absent. That was given from yesterday. The First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman is absent. He sent his apologies. The Minister for [Community Affairs, Gender and

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

The Speaker: We have no statements or messages this afternoon.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

Government Motion No. 8/2010-11—Strategic Policy Statement for the 2011/12 Financial Year

(Continuation of debate thereon)

The Speaker: Honourable Premier, would you continue your reply please?

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

Madam Speaker, yesterday I answered the Opposition's call for the Government. In fact, the Third Member for George Town called on the Premier to do something about crime and to lay our crime strategy out to the public. Of course, he could not resist, as I said, mentioning that I have a driver—whom he called a "police security" or a "guard," or something like that. I am wondering . . . he's correcting me to say that he said a "police guard." I am wondering if he was Premier whether he would have three or four. Anyway, Madam Speaker, they put it in place and it is in place.

As I said, Madam Speaker, it would be most reckless of me and a most serious breach of national security if either the Commissioner or I should lay out to the general public that strategy. The Commissioner and the Elected Government have already [laid out], in the broadest and best way possible for people to understand, that there is something being done. But let us all understand something . . . and if the Third Elected Member for George Town wants to be a leader, as they are jockeying to be, he would not try to fill up people's heads with things that cannot be done or carried out under our Constitution by elected politicians, as he sought to do yesterday by attacking me as the Premier.

Neither the Commissioner of Police nor I nor he, can stop people who are determined to commit a crime. We as an elected Government can and must

vote funds when asked and assurance given that the voting of those funds will enhance policing matters. We have done that. I hear, 'now I understand.' I do not know if they understand or not. We must do the necessary legislation to help decrease and punish offenders and try to rehabilitate them. We are doing that as a Government.

But, Madam Speaker, we cannot change people overnight, and I doubt in 17 months of an administration, or even in 4 years of an elected Government. Madam Speaker, times have changed in this world and Cayman is no longer a fishing village. We are as metropolitan in our Islands now as some States of the great United States.

Madam Speaker, I hear them whining over there about what happened between [the years] 2005 to 2009, and I didn't ask them to wave a magic wand.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Well, I said you were responsible because there were certain things that [you] did not do! So you had to be responsible. But you did some things like buying the helicopter. You did.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, let me tell that Member something. I am going to say a few things because, Madam Speaker, you have been listening to them. You have been listening to a few things. And this is how reckless and evil the Third Elected Member for George Town . . . You just heard what he said, Madam Speaker. You heard him. And that's how wicked he is and how desperate he is.

Madam Speaker, as I said, when I was the Leader of the Opposition, I expected for something to be done. I did not expect them to wave a magic wand. But I wonder if they forgot what happened between 2001 and 2005, and what they carried on with. Did they see me carry any demonstrations on the street? Did they see me? I rarely even got on the radio to talk. I went ahead and tried to do something about what was happening. They did the opposite because they are advised by a Caribbean person who, Madam Speaker, is used to that kind of thing.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, let them demonstrate. Let's see what that does to the country. You hear the threats.

I knew, Madam Speaker, that my administration would not be given an easy time because they expected to govern the country forever and aye. That is their problem! They do not understand that the ball is round! And that they can be in this minute and out the next. They do not understand that. Perhaps they

need a bit more time sitting there to understand that I well know it. I have been through it.

Madam Speaker, because these criminals are bolstered—some because of the economic times, others because of a certain mindset—the emergence . . . Madam Speaker, let me say, there are many things that are impacting criminal activity. The emergence of certain new business ventures . . . they need to be careful in their operations that precautions are taken to ensure that they are not facilitating the handling of stolen goods. I will say no more, Madam Speaker, because the police are aware of certain matters.

Madam Speaker, when they are squirming over there because of what I am saying—

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Madam Speaker, on a point of order.

The Speaker: Yes, Member for East End, what is your point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Thank you.

Madam Speaker, the Premier said something about stolen goods and someone being careful of . . . Could he please . . . is he making that remark towards Members on this side? Because, if he is, he needs to withdraw it.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, so as not to put you in a spot, let me repeat what I have said: I said times have changed in this world and these Islands are no longer a fishing village. We are as metropolitan in our Islands now as some States in the United States. Because these criminals are bolstered—some because of the economic times, others, because of a certain mindset—I said the emergence of certain new businesses—new business ventures—ought to be careful in their operation that precautions are taken to ensure that they are not facilitating the handling of stolen goods.

Madam Speaker, I do not know how the Opposition could in their mindset determine that I was referring anything to them. I did not know they were a business venture. Or are they?

[inaudible interjection]

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

[inaudible interjection]

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

The Speaker: Please. Order! Let's get the reply from the—

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: Madam Speaker, I am trying to be as tolerant as I can. I know they are going to be getting up in a few minutes because I have a few things to say in answer to them. They should wait until then, but they are up and down like a gig.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush: I have not started good yet.

Madam Speaker, during the past 16 months the Government has been pursuing a number of legislative as well as other initiatives to assist in combating the troubling upsurge in crime in these Islands. Indeed, in a direct response to the growing concern about witness intimidation, the Government has enacted the Criminal Evidence (Witness Anonymity) Law.

That piece of legislation now allows the courts, in suitable cases, to allow witnesses to give evidence without having to disclose their identity. It means that witnesses to serious crime will be far more willing to provide information to the police and, where required, evidence in court. Additionally, the Government recently passed the most comprehensive and modernised Police Law these Islands have ever seen. The new Law will give the police extensive additional powers to deal with crime. Powers include that of search and seizure, detention and arrest, the tape or video recording of interviews of suspects. These are all very important tools for their police in their fight against crime and other anti-social behaviour.

Madam Speaker, in recent times we have also amended the Bail Law to allow the electronic monitoring of persons who are put on bail. These persons can now be better monitored whilst out on bail.

Only this year we have also passed the protection from domestic violence. This Law, Madam Speaker, amongst other things, addresses the growing problem of domestic violence caused by emotional or psychological abuse, financial abuse, physical abuse, or sexual abuse. Victims of abuse will now be able to obtain a protection order on occupancy, or such other relevant orders from the court to protect them from these ongoing abuses.

As we speak, Madam Speaker, the Government has on the Order Paper for today, the Evidence (Amendment) Bill, and that Bill will allow the court in its discretion to apply special measures to vulnerable witnesses who are in need of such assistance. The courts will be able to provide screens to prevent the accused seeing the witness, especially if the witness is a child or is a sexual assault victim. Also they will be allowed to testify via video link or video recording.

All these, Madam Speaker, are initiatives we are pursuing to prevent the intimidation of witnesses by thugs who are charged for violent offences.

We are looking at other measures such as judge-alone trials for gun crimes, discontinuing pre-

liminary inquiries, and generally seeking to fast-track matters through the courts. We believe that with these legislative initiatives, when combined with the operational initiatives being pursued by the Commissioner of Police, we will eventually put an end to the rising crime trend these Islands are currently experiencing.

Also, Madam Speaker, a contract for the National Closed Circuit Television project has been awarded, and this will allow law enforcement to monitor our hot spots, and will be extremely beneficial in the disruption, prevention, and detection of crime, we hope.

Police are working with the Legal Department to develop and implement legislation that supports criminal prosecutions, thereby . . . and I think I just gave that—the Witness Anonymity Law and the Witness Protection Law.

There are new members, Madam Speaker, in the CID (Criminal Investigation Department), the Financial Crime and Patrol Duties.

Madam Speaker, the two Members who are disrupting and complaining most, and the one who complained and asked for something to be done . . . I thought he would sit there and listen while I tell him what is being done. But, of course, they would be on the radio tomorrow morning saying nothing was done.

There is the strengthening of our border policing to stem firearms, drugs and people smuggling. Our Marine and Air Operations Units are equipped and performing well.

Madam Speaker, serious crime over the first nine months of the year dropped by 3.38 per cent (according to what I have been given). That equates to 22 fewer victims of serious crimes. However, the level of armed robberies on the Islands continues to cause concern. The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) is addressing this issue head-on by the implementation of dedicated robbery teams and carrying out targeted operations to trace the person responsible and recover the firearms and the ammunition. Several arrests have been made. Some people have already been convicted and others have been charged and are due to stand trial. The investigations of seven murders since January are underway. Arrests and charges have been made in connection with six of these crimes. No charges have been made in respect of the remaining investigations.

Madam Speaker, on the other side, the Prison Service is now an accredited centre for City and Guilds, allowing prisoners to sit external examinations and receive accredited certification, and we hope that when they come out they will be better citizens. The Prison Service is now a centre for custodial vocational qualification. A number of officers recently received their level 3 custodial care qualification. We hope this will bring about a more secure prison.

A vocational training centre is now 75 per cent completed, which will provide vocational training in a variety of areas (as I said), again, hoping that these

people who are incarcerated will come out a better person.

On the immigration side, the outfitting of a dedicated forgery detection room is to be completed. And this is within the Immigration Office at the airport terminal and will be an addition to secondary processing where more in-depth secondary testing and examination can be applied to questionable suspect documents.

So, Madam Speaker, when the Third Elected Member for George Town, in his quest to be a leader, gets up and asks about what the Premier is doing, as I said, Madam Speaker, we are doing all that we can do. But I read yesterday from the *Hansards* my proposal in 2004 for the new Constitution, where we said that the Governor should be able to delegate responsibility for some policing matters. That has not happened in the new one. So, he is calling on me now after he gets an MBE (Member of the British Empire) for putting forward the new Constitution that does not give us that kind of authority. But that's the PPM for ya! That's their way of managing.

Madam Speaker, in his speech, the Member for George Town carried on quite a bit about what we are doing and why we cannot do certain things, and questioned about our debt. He should be the last one, and I will tell you why, Madam Speaker. It is so important that I need to restate, once again, that the United Democratic Party Government is concerned with the buildup of public debt. The increase in public debt has taken place substantially during the tenure of the PPM administration.

Let me demonstrate the stark contrast between the Government that I led from November 2001 to May 2005, and the current Government under which I am the Premier and Minister of Finance, and the PPM Government when it comes to borrowing and debt accumulation. Under the previous Government that I led, the calendar year 2002 was the first full year that can be attributed to that previous Government. During the year ended 31 December core Government borrowing was \$10.8 million.

To permit the change of Government's accounting year to the 1 July to 30 June year, there was a half year for Government's accounting purposes from 1 January to 30 June 2003. During that half year borrowings were the US dollar equivalent of \$136.8 million. However, \$115 million was used to refinance or repay existing debt that had a variable rate of interest attached to such loans.

There was the very real prospect that interest cost would increase on those associated loans totaling \$115 million. Plus, that new debt [that] was taken on in the half year to 30 June 2003 was only \$21.8 million, which meant, Madam Speaker, that we borrowed only \$32.6 million at that time.

Members of the House and the public should also recall that the financing obtained during the half year involved an amortising bond in which interest and principal are repaid every six months. And a fixed rate

of interest is payable on the bond of 5.3 per cent, and this does not change at all during the bond's life, which will end in April 2018, if not before. Madam Speaker, the bond represents prudent financial management by my previous Government.

On the 2003/2004 fiscal year (which ended on 30 June 2004), my Government then showed prudent fiscal restraint again, because we only borrowed [\$]23 million in that year. So, we add up the [\$]32.6 [million] to that.

The 2004/05 year (that ended on 30 June 2005) was the last year that can be associated with the previous Government that I led. During that year only \$15 million was borrowed, and on 30 June 2005 the core Government public debt totaled \$156 million. In summary, Madam Speaker, in that four-year period I mentioned, the new borrowings under my Government that occurred, totaled approximately [\$]70.9 million, an average of \$17.7 million per year for the four years—fiscal restraint, Madam Speaker. But that Member does not know anything about it. He does not know anything about restraint. He cannot even restrain himself to sit in his seat. He's gone!

During the 2005/06 year—this is the difference between me and him, if that is what he wants to compare it to. Or me, him, and the Member for East End, or he and I, the Member for East End, and the First [Elected] Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, Madam Speaker, since they are the three vying for leadership, and the current Leader of the Opposition.

During the 2005/06 year the PPM Government borrowed \$24 million. The total core Government's public debt stood at [\$]166 million at the 30 June 2006. During the PPM's second year in office, they borrowed another [\$]23 [million] and the total core Government public debt stood at [\$]174 million on 30 June 2007. But, getting closer now to elections and they want something done quick, bad. During their third year in office the former PPM Government borrowed \$130 million and the total core Government public debt rose to \$286 million at the 30 June 2008.

In 2008/09, their fourth and last year in office the former Government borrowed a further \$154 million and at 30 June 2009 the total core Government public debt mushroomed to \$416 million. But they did not stop there, Madam Speaker, and I will tell you why, after this.

In summary, Madam Speaker, when the previous Government—that I had led—left in May 2005, the core Government public debt stood at approximately \$156 million, and in four years the PPM Government increased that debt figure approximately threefold to end up at \$416 million owed—

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Four hundred.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Yes, \$446 million owed at the 30 June. Well, 30 June 2009, one-half a billion US dollars.

That was bad enough!

In contrast, Madam Speaker, whilst borrowings and debt increased substantially, not a single dollar was added to the country's general reserves.

Got good right they run out of here!

The last time funds were placed in our general reserve was in 2003 when my previous Government increased general reserves by approximately \$20 million. So, we could end up in 2005 with over \$106 million to do good in the bank and a bouncing economy because we took . . . At that time, Madam Speaker, I took licks because I was chairman of my boards. But I pushed the development programme from that vantage point. I took licks; I got accused, I got investigated, but the country benefitted.

They got a good right to run out of here.

From then I can say we were on the right direction. We still are there today. I am putting the country back on that because I don't like to borrow. The country cannot afford any more borrowings; we cannot afford any more debt. We only have to look at what is happening in the great United Kingdom, the great United States, in Greece and other countries in Europe, and smaller countries in our region, to see where that will end us up. That is where you have to force income tax, when you have a weak leader.

So, Madam Speaker, let them go ahead and make their threats and their accusations. I will come to that in a couple of minutes.

Now, they went on about that the SPS, the statement itself, was inconsistent with my speech. And I say they are not. We still have seven months to go in this Government in this year. He went on and on, Madam Speaker, about what Government is doing and that we are not doing enough to help people. He mentioned jobs and social service assistance. Can you believe that?

Madam Speaker, he went on to talk about no amount of bell towers or national heroes be put into place; we need to help people. And that is what we are doing.

Madam Speaker, when we took over—without having any information as to the condition of the country—we started helping people. Immediate stimulus was put—even as small as it was—over \$5 million through the Cayman Islands Development Bank. Then, there was a work programme for over \$2 million which was led by the Backbench team for people who were out of work. That was last year. And this year we have just embarked on another \$1 million of this work at this Christmas time.

Madam Speaker, let me say, any old fool can ask for money to be spent but it takes good management to save money. It takes good management to make money. And they did not listen to anyone. That

is their problem. They are saying that we are not listening to them, but how can I listen to them and believe anything about them, Madam Speaker? I would be a crazy boy. And I am not that!

Madam Speaker, what I said awhile ago about the \$416 million, that was not including the embarkation of a number of large projects that they put in place without having the money to complete them. We have had to do that. That did not include a fifty million dollar bill, thus far, for lands purchased for road works. Fifty million!

You can only give, Madam Speaker, when you [have]. And, the first duty of my Government was to stabilise Government expenditure and try to save some money to do these things with. And what did I say then, in 2008? That the capital projects proposed by this Government have not been accompanied with revenue sources to fund the recovered expenditure to operate them. The annual budget would be increased to support those projects along with debt servicing.

Listen. What did they tell me? Now they are crying and saying, *Oh, he nah listening to us!* What did they tell me? "Not on the kindest of mornings." That was their guru, their leader, the same one who told us that the fallout of Lehman Brothers was only going to cost this country \$200,000. And I must listen to them? For what? So that I can sink further into the pit? Of course not!

Madam Speaker, you cannot help people if you do not have money. That is what I want to say to the Member for George Town, when he is talking about people out there that do not have a job and Government needs to put in place a stimulus. We need to give money to Social Services. He does not need to preach to McKeever Bush. He needs to sit down and listen and learn instead of being up like a Jack-in-the-Box!

Madam Speaker, when it comes to helping people I ain't scared of my record. There is nobody in this House that has done that any better and any more than I have, because when I came here they were giving our senior citizens \$25 per month. Check the records! And check the battle that I had to increase it to [\$]50 and then to [\$]125.

The Members' colleague, the Second [Elected] Member for Bodden Town knows the battles that I had but we pushed it through! He supported me in doing so! And at that time, Madam Speaker, the Member for East End was in the Opposition, some team called Team Cayman, opposing it! And probably, Madam Speaker, the Third Elected Member for George Town who is saying we must give more now, was advising him!

[Laughter]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: And so, Madam Speaker, we got it up to, what, six hundred dollars now per month?

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeewa Bush: Five hundred?

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeewa Bush: That was, Madam Speaker, just the elderly. But we put in place the Seamen's vote. And don't ask about whether they did that. Some of the 19-year olds don't know that.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeewa Bush: And the Seamen Veterans. Some of the 19-year olds don't know that, Madam Speaker. They hear that McKeewa is such a bad person because *CNS (Cayman News Service)* says so.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeewa Bush: They hear this and they hear that. They do not know the struggles that I fought up in that corner for the people of this country and for them.

And he has the audacity to run in and out of here like a Jack-in-the-Box about what this Government should do, and that we have not done anything?

You have to first put your finances in order, Madam Speaker. We know at our own level. We know in our own home, Madam Speaker, that you cannot very well spend what you do not have or you will get into trouble. We do know that if you over borrow you would get into trouble. If you build a house that is too big for your pocket you will get into trouble. If you buy cars that you do not need, but you buy them anyway to show-off, or you feel that you are making the money but not looking far enough down the road, you will get into trouble! And they say that Government—

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeewa Bush: What did you send this to me for?

[inaudible interjections]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeewa Bush: He's sending me some card that he is carrying for Team Cayman signed by the Member for East End, Madam Speaker.

This is no time for jokes like that. That's a joke! A joke, Madam Speaker!

I guess that is why the public is calling for the Member for North Side to be their leader.

Shame on you!

[laughter]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeewa Bush: Madam Speaker, if the Government continues to spend the way that Government spent, and the rut that they left us in, the Government would collapse!

If Government collapses because of our bad financial position . . . I mean, who was going to shore us up, Madam Speaker, if we could not pay our bills? And look at the problem that we have in getting to that point to get money now to pay for roads and schools, and pay for GOAP (Government Office Accommodation Project). The Leader of the Opposition told us that would take all the civil servants.

Oh yeah? He'd better go and check who has gone and spent \$5 million, \$3 million, \$1 point something million plus for two and three years rent. The people of this country do not understand all that I have had to put up with in this administration since we got elected and the financial mess.

Times might be hard out there. Do not think that the country could not have collapsed. And if Government collapses then there would be no work, then there would be no social services benefits, then there would be no after-school care benefits. There would be no senior citizens or veterans benefits. We first must fix Government's finances! And, at the same time, we have to bring economic activity. That is the struggle of my Government—fixing the finances of this country (which we are showing that we are doing), and, Madam Speaker, at the same time, trying to encourage confidence which was badly shaken in the country. Let us put the cards on the table.

I know that they said, Madam Speaker, that I had made things worse because I went out and said that the country was broke. Well, what did they want me to tell the country when I went out there? That we had money?

What did they want me to do, lie about that?

What did they want me to say in New York, that the country never had financial problems? And then when we go to bond issue and the people come and do their due diligence, and you find that you have close to a billion in outstanding loans, what do you do then to get the \$300 million that you need?

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeewa Bush: Madam Speaker, it is that kind of management—

The Speaker: Refrain from the comments, please.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeewa Bush: It is that kind of management and that kind of thought process that has put this country where it is today, led by the Leader of the Opposition, the Third Member for George Town, and the Member for East End.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeewa Bush: It is true, Madam Speaker.

They complained, Madam Speaker, about spending money. Let me tell them why we had to raise the fees—because that was another big thing, that we are destroying the country because the fees are what caused so much damage. But we did! Where were we going to get the money from? We had to raise fees, Madam Speaker. The industries know that!

They did not come up with any viable plan to go elsewhere or do anything else. I saw them trying to tell you something about a car licence. Yeah, that could find \$300 million.

Madam Speaker, we had to raise fees and let me tell you why: On Cayman Airways—and I am only going to tell you some of the reasons—\$2 million to Lufthansa. What we did we get out of it? What did we get out of it? I know what we got out of it. I left Cayman Airways with 300 staff [members], they put another one hundred and odd on; 400 and something now. That's what we got out of it. Had to give them more money.

The questionable circumstances of the building—two contracts, Madam Speaker: One for a lower amount for a first purchase—which was not even registered—and the one to Cayman Airways for the higher amount.

They talk about investigations and bond issues? I will talk about that in awhile, Madam Speaker. But I am not on fishing expeditions.

We had to raise the money, Madam Speaker, the fees that he is complaining about. And I am sorry that we have to traverse this ground, but it bears repeating because he carried it in his speech— projects that were started with no money. Oh, a plan to borrow money. Well, we had to go and complete some of that. Schools, \$150 million. Well, more like [\$]170 [million]. The GOAP (that is, the Government Administration Building), close to \$90 million. We yet do not know what the [amount] is for the roads; we have just gotten something like \$50 million in bills for lands.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I do not know. You had some outstanding, yes. There have been some but you put the most on it.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: Oh no! [Inaudible]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Oh yeah. Well, we have \$50 million outstanding.

Mr. V. Arden McLean: [Inaudible]

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

You know, Madam Speaker, they are good at this thing about you must prove it, which is questioning the veracity of what I say. But let them go ahead because they think the truth is not going to come to come out, but it will come out.

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: No you don't hope so, because if you all wanted it to come out you would have brought it out. They would have told the people what it was. But they hid it! They even put an FOI in place and then made it come into effect after they left Government.

Madam Speaker—

The Speaker: Member for East End, please!

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I wish the Member would leave me alone a little bit.

The Speaker: [addressing the Member for East End] I want to hear the debate and I would appreciate if you be quiet and follow the Standing Orders in that regard.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Why do we not have money now to give our people? Why can we not give as much to Social Services that they are crying about? They spent over \$100,000 to bring in a band for Heroes Day. One hundred thousand dollars to bring in a band for Heroes Day! Over \$600,000 spent on Heroes Day! Do you know how many mouths that could feed? Do you know how many old people that could help? Do you know how much bread that could buy? How much electrical bills that could help pay? How much gas that could help pay for people?

Close to \$2 million was spent on a boxing match where our local champion was not even the feature.

Madam Speaker, they have the audacity to talk about why we are not giving people more in 17 months with this kind of expenditure before we got in. What about the over \$10 million in investigations that got nowhere, Madam Speaker?

Mr. V. Arden McLean: You caused it.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I caused it?
Yes.

Madam Speaker, many people want me to call for commissions of inquiry and more investigations, but I have resisted that!

[inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I didn't go to any.

Madam Speaker, if the Member—

The Speaker: Member for East End—

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: —does not stop I am going to call another point of order on him.

The Speaker: Member for East End, let me remind you please of section 39[(c)] of the Standing Orders: “**maintain silence while other Members are speaking; and not interrupt except in accordance with the Standing Orders;**”

Please continue, Mr. Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, he is dying to make himself a martyr to push himself up on that pole that they got going.

All I ask, Madam Speaker, is that you make him talk his head off but make him sit there. Do not throw him out. I beg you not to. That is only relieving him of his agony.

[laughter]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I could call investigations, Madam Speaker, saying something was not right, something does not look right, as was done to me. But, Madam Speaker, must we kill each other? No, Madam Speaker, I am not about that.

Madam Speaker, I listened (since I am on this topic), to the Member talk about the Government Bond Issue, asking again to tell them about rates and that I should have talked about that in this Strategic Policy Statement. That Bond Issue, Madam Speaker, is not for next year's budget. That Bond Issue is for this year's budget to help pay-off their bills that they left. I had no business to report on that at this point in time.

Madam Speaker, they do not understand that? They do not know that? You mean they are so daft that they do not understand that. And I heard them say too, Madam Speaker, that I was ultra vires the law; that's why they were walking out. What a bunch of nonsense, Madam Speaker.

What I can tell them—and I will tell them again—about this Bond Issue when he has now asked me to speak about it. I have told them that it is not appropriate to do so now because we are still in those stages of going for bonds. But I warned them that they would damage that process, they could damage that process. I asked them all to wait until the process was completed and I would inform the country. Because, if we lose out on rates now because of the kind of airing—the wild and unfounded allegations this matter has gotten from the Opposition on television, on CNS, and all the rest of them out there—the loss of the savings in millions of dollars in interest for the country can only be blamed on their reckless behaviour.

It does seem in their eagerness . . . oh, but you know it is no use of asking them to shut their mouths, Madam Speaker. You cannot shut that unless you hold them with pliers.

In their eagerness to cut me down, to trample the Premier (as they have said, ‘you do not have to have any reverence for the Premier,’) they have forgotten what is being done by them will have a negative effect on the bond rate. And I hope that the peo-

ple of this country will understand that until we have completed it we could be in danger of doing that when people start to question. They do not understand that there has to be a strong due diligence from so many sectors done before a bond is issued.

Madam Speaker, I said that there would be changes to the process. I said I have asked the Auditor General to assist. That is not new. Elected Governments must change things when it is not working. That is what we must do. But I did say that I believe I have sufficient legality to carry out my duty to get value for money under section 34. Well, they might want to argue against that until Kingdom come, but that is my position.

Madam Speaker, they need to wait. Let them wait until the bond is completed and then they will know the rate that the country is paying.

Madam Speaker, they threatened. “Wait,” they said, “you will hear more about this.” Madam Speaker, I am used to their dirty tactics. Dirty, Madam Speaker! I am used to some of it that I see going on in this country! If I were to go by talk, Madam Speaker, and the things I have been told about what obtains with the schools and the various contracts surrounding them, the former Minister would be investigated too.

If I were to listen what is talked and what has been told to me, I would ask for an investigation asking if there was involvement in one of the greatest downfalls of a certain fund with a certain person being the fall guy going to jail. But that is not me! I ain't about to do that! This country has enough problems!

If I were like that, and listened to every cat and dog out there who is spouting off, as the Premier of this country I would call an investigation on the last four years. And who bought the land before the road went in, and who owns the land where certain roads went in, and should have been elsewhere. I would do that! But I am not going to do so because, Madam Speaker, I do know what they did out of viciousness! Even took off their glasses making believe they are going to cry while they are talking about calling an investigation on me as the Leader of the Opposition.

They can investigate, because when your hands are clean and your heart is pure you do not have anything to worry about sleeping. An investigation was called to try to kill me, to keep me from moving them. They did not succeed because I did not do the things I was accused of. And I am not doing the things that I am being accused of now.

Who knows? They might still carry on an investigation. As I said, the Labour Party still has supporters. They still were able to get MBE's and OBE's.

They come here to talk about investigations like they are lily white. Nobody pays McKeever's electrical bill, except the Government pays some of it now. But they put the Premier in place and the protocols in place.

[Inaudible interjection]

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: I do not have any company paying . . . I do not own any electrical company. I do not even own shares in the electrical company. And they have the audacity to point their fingers and make accusations? That is why you see that Member not sitting there now, because he figured I would be coming back and he cannot take the heat. That is why he has gone out of the kitchen, or in the kitchen.

Madam Speaker, I am not going down that road. And I say to people, stop it! You are not helping this country. You are not doing anything! CNS and everyone else who reports it is not doing anything! Do not talk about freedom of speech. Think about people's grandchildren, think about people's wives. What you are doing to people's parents; what you are doing when you are doing when you allow that kind of rubbish to be printed in this country. You are not helping the country. I ain't going to do so, Madam Speaker. No, the country has enough problems, not for me to cause any more.

My duty is to bring this country out of the morass that I found it in. My duty—as Cayman's first Premier—is to be a protector for this country. My duty as the first Premier of these Islands is to try and bring peace and order, Madam Speaker. I need, and I want, and I am trying to take this country to a higher level, not to cause more disturbance and investigations, no. I will not get into that, Madam Speaker.

So, when he comes here and points fingers and makes insinuations, and he knows that he is going to be carried on the blogs . . . because they are writing everything they say. You watch the reports, very little is reported on what the Government says. The whole spiel is about what the Opposition says.

They must be paying their bills, I don't know.

The Speaker: Please refrain from remarks.

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

Madam Speaker, those people who live in glass houses should not throw stones. I heard that a long time ago, when I was about seven years old, in a political meeting.

Madam Speaker, they asked why we cannot help people. It is because we did not have the money to help people. We are balancing the Government's books. We are trying to get finances back in place so that we can give.

Madam Speaker, on financial assistance . . . and I can tell this country that we have a good Minister who cares about people, Madam Speaker, in the Honourable Mike Adam. He is doing his best to try to juggle and put in programmes and find money to help people who actually need it.

A total of over \$2 million has been extended as at 25 October, with a total of 928 persons receiving this aid during that period. And for the period for 25 October 2010, there were 916 recipients. Some peo-

ple died, of course, Madam Speaker. That was for poor relief; financial assistance.

Let us look at rental assistance between 1 July to 3 November 2010: A total of 219 families have been assisted with rental at a cost totaling and committed of \$560,000. Food vouchers: \$642,000. Madam Speaker, we are still looking for some money to help with rent, poor relief, and food vouchers, trying to move money around. Madam Speaker, they said here that we had cut poor relief, rental assistance, food vouchers. Madam Speaker, that is not true.

In 2008/09 (during their Government) there were 906 cases to help. We upped it in 2009/10, small amount, but we upped it at that point—even that bad stage—to 913, plus the extras that I have mentioned now.

In 2010/11, 928; that is just poor relief. Do not say we cut. We knew we could not add a whole lot because we did not have money, but we added more than what they had.

Rental assistance [was] 273 in 2008/09. In 2009/10 (our year) [it was] 292. In 2010/11, 219 but still we added more money since then.

Food vouchers: Madam Speaker, were up above them, 873 to 951. In the budget we had to make some cuts, but as we managed the budget better we gave a little bit more.

So, Madam Speaker, when that Member—the Third Member for George Town—talks about they are doing more than us, [he is] talking nonsense. They had money but they did not do anything more than us.

Madam Speaker, he made much and wondered if there was not going to be more Government borrowing. And we have said 'no'. I believe in keeping our word. In the three-year plan that we sent to the FCO (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) in May of this year, that plan says that Government's capital expenditure in its own projects and activities would be restricted to \$25 million for each year. That is what we have to live with as a new Government that needs to get things done—\$25 million.

The SPS before the House therefore shows capital expenditures and assistance to public agencies because that \$25 million central government; [\$]18.5 million from 2011/12 onwards in government owned companies, \$43.5 million. It is consistent, Madam Speaker, with the FCO plan we submitted in May and agreed to with them. We believe in keeping our word.

The SPS correctly shows nil borrowings, Madam Speaker, because that is what we told the Foreign and Commonwealth Office—whom they put us in the hands of. My Government and I do not believe in increasing debt on these Islands. Our capital expenditures and assistance to public agencies totaling \$43.5 million annually will be funded by revenues and by the divestment of public assets such as the sewerage system.

He went on so recklessly asking about hold-ups and the payments of government creditors. The

Government is quite aware of the importance of keeping in payments, our obligations, honoured and in a timely way, especially at this Christmas Season. There is no hold-up now in the payment of creditors' invoices by the Government.

Past service liability payments: Oh, they love to jump on that one thinking that one will grab the headlines for sure. Madam Speaker, the Third Elected Member for George Town is correct when he says that recently the past service liability payments have not been made, but we didn't tell a lie about it. What the Government pays now by way of pension contributions is to cover the current cost of the value of pension benefits that are accruing now. When the Government's finances are reinstated to a more robust level, the Government will resume making past service liability payments.

Once again, Madam Speaker, this is a long-standing past service liability matter that did not originate with this Government. However, we will continue to address the matter when Government's finances are able to do so. And had they left the country in good financial position, we would be better off.

Madam Speaker, he spent a considerable period of time trying to plant doubt that there is a conflict between what I said in my speech and the content of the SPS document. There is no such conflict, and let me demonstrate this.

The Member said that page 14 of the SPS document states that the latest forecast for 2010 points to a reduction of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) by 4.1 per cent. This refers to the calendar year 2010, Madam Speaker; that is January to December 2010.

Now, on page 21 of my speech I stated that the CIMA (Cayman Islands Monetary Authority) reports a series of increases for the period from December 2009 to September 2010, this year.

Madam speaker, in arriving at these positive percentages of increase, the Monetary Authority would have compared December 2009 to September 2010 against December 2008 to September 2009. It is therefore on a faulty limb for the Member for George Town to make a comparison between such periods and the calendar year, 2010. It is faulty, a mistake—maybe he does not know, though—to conclude that those positive percentages of increase cannot coexist alongside a forecast for calendar year 2010, which runs from January to December 2010.

I am positive, Madam Speaker, that whilst this simple single example illustrates that it is possible to have increases and decreases in the manner set out in my speech on the SPS document, the same principle of unfair comparisons between different periods of time will eliminate the points made by the Third Elected Member for George Town.

Madam Speaker, they sure know how to confuse matters. Deliberately so, though!

He went on to talk about CINICO's premium reductions of 10 per cent for Civil Service, and tried to

paint the gloomiest and worse management of that situation. As part of the overall cost savings exercise Government effected a 10 per cent premium reduction to CINICO for civil servants' health insurance. Contrary to what the Third Elected Member for George Town said, the premium reduction is not delaying an expenditure or cost that will later be incurred. That is not so! The decision was made for the 10 per cent premium mainly on reduction basis, and mainly on the following reasons:

1) CINICO is in a good cash position today following many years of government subsidy.

And the Member should be happy that management has been able to do that. Plus, the fact, Madam Speaker, that Government no longer put in a subsidy as of the 2009/10 year, from last year running through this year.

2) The premium reduction would be absorbed by good case management, particularly overseas cases, and a number of initiatives which will reduce costs, such as removal of over-the-counter drugs from HSA (Health Services Authority) pharmacies.

This alone, Madam Speaker, is expected to bring about savings to CINICO of \$800,000 to \$900,000. This is no delaying tactic, Madam Speaker.

He needed to congratulate the Minister of Health for getting this done. And the country should congratulate him. I certainly do! So, the Member for George Town is absolutely wrong again. The premium reduction is a proactive measure on the part of our Government.

Madam Speaker, I think that I have put them through enough agony. Whether it gets treated fairly in the press or not, the records of the House will bear out that I have answered him competently, and have shown where he is wrong.

This Government, Madam Speaker, is on the right direction. We are cutting our expenses. We are saving government's money. We are improving government's finances. We are seeking investment. We are taking other initiatives to ensure that people come here and help us build this country. We are bringing the right kinds of development that will give long-term jobs to Caymanians in the creation of shipping mega yachts.

Madam Speaker, if the world hits this kind of condition again, I want us to be in a position where we do not have this kind of unemployment, and this kind of bad financial situation in Government. But we cannot do that by doing nothing. You cannot do that by wearing a pair of flip-flops. You have to be on the ball at all times. You cannot do that by staying and sitting here in Cayman, you have to go and discuss the matters where it needs to be discussed.

Madam Speaker, we are in the right direction because we are assisting our people where we can. We would love to add more money to give them, but government does not have that kind of finance. Government's finances, while they are headed in the right

direction they are still in a fragile condition. We are creating stimulus for local business.

Madam Speaker, further to the short to medium-term economic stimulus package I announced in the SPS speech in the House yesterday, I would like to take a moment to highlight an immediate economic stimulus measure for our local economy facilitated by our own Civil Service Association Co-operative Credit Union. And what I am referring to is the annual dividends that the Credit Union pays its members each year. Despite a sluggish economy, these funds have still been allocated and are scheduled to be distributed over the next few days, just in time for the Holidays.

Although that is not a new initiative, it comes at a time when our people need it most, especially now, as many families continue to experience several financial hardships. These Credit Union members are hardworking individuals from within our Civil Service who I am positive will appreciate the value of receiving extra assistance at this time. And, through the multiplier [effect], these dividends will have a ripple effect in the economy as it translates to increased super-market sales, more trips to local shops and businesses, higher fuel consumption, and the list could go on.

And I would bet you, Madam Speaker, over \$2 million is going to be paid out. And if it is that, when you figure the multiplier effect which is used at three times, that is \$6 million that will be pumped into the economy later on during the Christmas.

Madam Speaker, I am fully aware that the economy is still lethargic and that my administration needs to continue to find creative ways to jumpstart the spending. I say this cautiously, but I am investigating right now whether through the Development Bank we can waive December and January loan and interest payments for small businesses—to those who will need it because not everybody is in bad shape. But that is what I am investigating now to try to get done. Maybe Government may have to give something to the Development Bank to help that, but it is something that I have talked to the chairman and the board about.

Madam Speaker, it is [with] those kinds of initiatives and thought processes in mind that we will be advancing discussions also with the Credit Union, with the aim of hopefully eventually including them in the Government's Guaranteed Housing Mortgage scheme provided by the National Housing Development. Perhaps it would be a good thing for the Credit Union membership to get home loans through that institution and this would prove to be a win-win situation.

So, we want to explore this avenue fully. The risk of the 35 per cent which guarantees that Government would give to the mortgage scheme would be lowered because there would be that built-in salary automatic deduction. This would potentially lower the delinquency rate as long as they remain a civil servant

and, over time, other cost savings could be realised as well.

Madam Speaker, I just wish to underscore that my Government holds true to our commitment of supporting the local economy in providing many windows of opportunity for our people in these very hard times. Looking into the New Year, my Government will be implementing further measures to improve our economic situation and to support our community.

We are on the right track, Madam Speaker, because as an elected Government we are doing what we can to support the Commissioner of Police and the Governor in their fight against crime and in proper policing matters. But the truth is, Madam Speaker, we cannot hire police to be at every bank door or every business door to stand by any business.

The job of the Commissioner is to make sure that what he has and what we can afford is deployed properly. And we have seen more patrols; we cannot say no to that. And even if we had a policeman at every building, it would not stop some criminals from doing what they want and having that kind of mindset. That will take a longtime process and I do not have time for that kind of debate at this point.

But we can pray about it. We can talk to our neighbours. We can talk to our young people. We can send out that kind of message and ask them, if they have a problem, to come and talk to us. If you do not want to talk to someone in authority, come and talk to me, I will help you; I will go and talk to that person for you.

Are we doing that, Madam Speaker? That is what social science says that a community can do. But we certainly will never be able to afford, as a country, to put a policeman by every bank door or every shopping centre. We will have to see that they are deployed right, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, we are on the right track. The Opposition says they can do better. Well, they had their chance. They should give us a chance, rather than all this wrangling and jangling and causing all kinds of things to be said about the country. Even overseas people are calling and questioning what is going on.

I would think, if our critics think that people should trust them, that people should listen to them, they need to spell out clearly how they propose to do better than I have done. And I do not mean, Madam Speaker, empty rhetoric, and smoke and mirrors—like walkouts—to draw attention to themselves, but what they will do to make the Government's finances better and thus the lives of people better; what will they do for the economy; what kinds of programmes are they suggesting.

We remember that under them the financial services was blacklisted. I mean, Madam Speaker, the Opposition ought to come with specific concrete proposals that can be subjected to the most rigorous scrutiny.

Madam Speaker, I am going to stop there, because I believe that they have enough to think about, they have enough to answer if they care to.

Madam Speaker, what I want to say to everyone listening [is]: We need to rethink—those who are so adamant to send news overseas, those who are so willing to threaten demonstrations, those who are so willing to point fingers and make accusations. Madam Speaker, I believe in the Bible. I have my failings, but I do believe that there is a greater Being in this world and “He don’t like ugly”, as one old woman used to say in West Bay, does not mean that Jesus does not like everybody.

He does not like these kinds of things. This sort of situation I see, Madam Speaker . . . I have never seen it. I have never seen such intolerance, dislike. Yes, we are having a hard time, Madam Speaker, but does it mean that we must eat one another? Does it mean that we must cause people’s family to feel bad by the things you say on national television and on blogs and on the front of newspapers?

Is that the way that we want to build our country? I say, no, Madam Speaker. Do you want the Government? Are you so mad to be elected that you have to use a radio show to pound and carry on with negatives that are not teaching even young children the best of things?

Madam Speaker, we have people here who say—

Moment of interruption—4.30 pm

The Speaker: Honourable Premier, we need a motion to carry on beyond the hour of 4.30.

Suspension of Standing Order 10(2)

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I propose to suspend Standing Order 10(2) to allow us to carry on after 4.30 to finish this Motion, and perhaps ah. . .

The Speaker: The question is that Standing Order 10(2) be suspended to allow the business of the House to continue after 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.

The Speaker: We will continue.
Honourable Premier.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I am winding down my debate. But I am ask-

ing, if they have any modicum of respect and love of country, to stop it.

It cannot be, Madam Speaker, that anyone could believe that if I say the word ‘darling’ or ‘sweet-heart’ that that is a bad thing. It cannot be that people are in that kind of mode of thinking. That is something from our great-grandparents’ day; something that is Caribbean which is done with a certain respect. It is not to disrespect anybody. Yet even that is taken by the Opposition and other people and blown up. Why? Why do we have to live like this? The worst has to be thought of people? I don’t think so, Madam Speaker. And what for, I should ask?

When they get here they will find out, if that is what they are trying to do, that it is a whole different kettle of fish. As all of us know, when we are on that side and on this side, and as previous governments knew also, it has gone.

I remember a song, Madam Speaker, that I was taught in junior choir, back in the early 70s. It says:

***“Listen children to a story,
That was written long ago.
‘Bout a kingdom on a mountain,
And the valley folk below.
On the mountain was a treasure,
Buried deep beneath a stone,
And the valley people swore,
They’d have it for they’re very own.***

(Chorus:)

***Go ahead and hate your neighbor,
Go ahead and cheat a friend.
Do it in the name of heaven,
You can justify it in the end.
There won’t be any trumpets blowin’
Come the judgment day.
On the bloody morning after,
One tin soldier rides away.***

***So the people of the valley,
Sent a message up the hill.
Asking for the buried treasure,
Tons of gold for which they’d kill.
Came an answer, from the kingdom,
“With our brothers, we will share,
All the secrets of our mountain,
All the riches buried there.”***

***Go ahead and hate your neighbor,
Go ahead and cheat a friend.
Do it in the name of heaven,
You can justify it in the end.
There won’t be any trumpets blowin’
Come the judgment day.
On the bloody morning after,
One tin soldier rides away.***

***Now the valley cried with anger,
“Mount your horses,***

*Draw your sword"
And they killed the mountain people,
So they won their just reward.
Now they stood beside the treasure
On the mountain dark and red, [with blood that was]
Turned the stone and looked beneath it,
"Peace on earth"
Was all it said.*

*Go ahead and hate your neighbor,
Go ahead and cheat a friend.
Do it in the name of heaven,
You can justify it in the end.
There won't be any trumpets blowin'
Come the judgment day.
On the bloody morning after,
One tin soldier rides away.*

Madam Speaker, accusations, the wish for power—not worth it. Not worth it!

Where are we going? What are we doing to ourselves?

Let us be more tolerant. Let us give way in the car, no need to cuss, cuss and carry on. Let us be more tolerant in Church [to] our brothers. Let us be more tolerant at the workplace where we have to work with other people.

The *Compass* editorial was right yesterday. I am thankful for my Islands. I am thankful that we have a free country. I am thankful that I can work with colleagues whom I can trust. I am thankful, Madam Speaker, to an Almighty God that has blessed us and brought us thus far.

"Go ahead and hate your neighbour," it won't do you any good.

Madam Speaker, I think I have made my point.

The Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier.

The question is BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly approves the policy priorities, aggregate financial targets and financial allocations set out in the 2011/12 Strategic Policy Statement as the indicative parameters on which the 2011/12 Budget is to be formulated.

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

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Can we have a division, please?

The Speaker: Madam Clerk.

The Clerk:

Division No. 23/10-11

Ayes: 11

Hon. W. McKeever Bush
Hon. Rolston M. Anglin
Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly
Hon. Michael T. Adam
Hon. J. Mark P. Scotland
Hon. Cline A. Glidden, Jr.
Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks
Mr. Ellio A. Solomon
Mr. Alden M McLaughlin
Mr. Anthony S Eden
Mr. V Arden McLean

Noes: 0

The Speaker: The result of the division is 11 Ayes and 0 Noes.

Government Motion No. 8/2010-11—The Strategic Policy Statement for the 2011/12 Financial Year is duly passed.

Agreed: Government Motion No. 8 2011/12 passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Madam Speaker, I believe that we have had a long and arduous couple of days in this House, and the matters left to be dealt with can be dealt with on 6 December.

Accordingly, Madam Speaker, before I move the adjournment I want to thank my staff who have stuck with this process of the SPS over the last several weeks: the Financial Secretary, the Chief Officer, Dr. Dax Basdeo, and other staff members in my Ministry of Finance. Madam Speaker, they worked hard and long on this matter. We have a great work yet to do.

I move the adjournment of this honourable House until 6 December at 10.00 am.

The Speaker: The question is that this honourable House do stand adjourned until 6 December at 10.00 am. I presume, Honourable Premier, that that includes the continuation of the present Paper.

The Premier, Hon. W. McKeever Bush: Yes, Madam Speaker, it means the continuation of the Paper and any outstanding questions. We will carry them over.

The Speaker: I will put the question that the House do stand adjourned until 10.00 am, 6 December.

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

Ayes.

The Speaker: The Ayes have it.

At 4.37 pm the House stood adjourned until 6 December 2010, at 10.00 am.

