

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

To: The People of Bermuda

The Premier of Bermuda, the Hon. Dr. Ewart Brown J.P. M.P.

The Members of the Bermuda House of Parliament

His Excellency the Governor of Bermuda Sir Richard Gozney KCMG

We the people of Bermuda have come together today not divided along racial lines, not divided along political lines but united as a Bermudian people towards a common cause. Our democracy is at risk and our voices must be heard and our message must be clear.

The leadership of this country seems to be on a course heading towards Dictatorship that the majority of Bermudians are no longer willing to tolerate. Our Premier, Dr. Ewart Brown is attempting to put a spin on this event as though this is the only blemish on his record.

May we remind you of -

- The infamous condescending "We needed to deceive you" comment
- The attempted gag order on the media to prevent the public from being informed
- The Faith Based Initiative that proved to be an embarrassment to the people of Bermuda

May we remind you of -

- The blatant disrespect of the office of the Auditor General
- The fiasco regarding the staff at the New York Office of the Department of Tourism
- Numerous reports of the excessive spending of the public purse by Government officials with no accountability

There are many other issues we could address, however the current issue at hand is the final straw.

We understand that there will be those who will highlight the past accomplishments of the Premier, however, as it is stated in the Bible, Matthew 7: 17 - 20 "Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit...thus by their fruit, you will recognize them."

Last week, Bermuda was awakened to the fact that our Premier, without the consultation of our elected officials or our Governor (as per the Bermuda Constitution) made a decision that negatively impacted our country both foreign and domestic.

This has been called a humanitarian act, but this is not the issue we are taking up today. Once proper protocol and due process is followed and if it is found that Bermuda may in fact be permitted to accept these individuals, we understand that there will be those who will object and they should raise their objections in an appropriate and lawful manner.

Our issue lies squarely with the fact that the tax-paying voters of this country have been disrespected by the Premier time and time again. This latest action is the final straw. Our voices were neither heard nor welcomed. We feel the temptation to take a moment of silence in honour of the death of Democracy – but we will not – as our voices rise once again in unity to state ENOUGH IS ENOUGH AND THIS HAS GONE WAY PAST ENOUGH!!!

Mr. Premier, we are fed up, disgusted, disrespected and angry. You knocked on our doors, sat in our living rooms and discussed the issues when you wanted our vote in the last General Election. You were not returned to power to abuse that power. You cannot push us to the rear on a whim and trample on our rights. You represent US – we don't represent you!

Yesterday was National Heroes Day. How ashamed would Dame Lois Browne-Evans DPE JP and Mr. L. Frederick Wade be to know that the grass-roots vision of the Progressive Labour Party is being eroded? They would be heartbroken.

Premier Brown, you are NOT a law unto yourself. You are answerable to God, your Queen, your country, your citizens and your conscience. We would encourage you to remember the position of your friend, Mr. Michael Misick, former Premier of the Turks and Caicos. Please do not lead Bermuda down the same path.

Mr. Premier, we consider you and President Obama to be persons of high intelligence and cannot fathom that you did not expect this type of reaction, or something akin to it. We wonder, what is so important to you that you would go through with this and risk the political, diplomatic and international backlash?

To the people of Bermuda, we encourage you to stand together not just for today or tomorrow, but as long as it takes to see justice done and Democracy restored. A precedent is being set here. What other issues will arise if we do not address this matter to the best of our collective ability?

To the Government of Bermuda, we insist that you do the right thing. You all have a voice and you represent our voices. We are not impressed by the thunderous silence by the majority, which accompanies every debacle we face. We now shout at the top of our lungs that the right thing be done.

Over the past few days, we have heard from numerous tax-paying voters of this country who have responded to the Premier's claims that this was not a deal of "Quid Pro Quo" meaning – "something for something". Their responses have been the same...they do not believe the Premier. Members of Parliament, this is a clear sign of no confidence – by the people whom you represent. We cannot have a leader who will, from now on, operate under such a cloud of suspicion. We ask that you take this message into your deliberations over the next 2 weeks while you consider the recently tabled no confidence vote of the ruling party under the current Premier.

To Premier Brown, you are not above the law and you cannot expect your citizens to abide by that which you choose to ignore. It's difficult enough to train up our children in the right way when our leadership does not hold on to integrity. Due to your gross error, lack of transparency and the damage done to the confidence of the people of Bermuda, we demand that you relinquish your role as Premier of Bermuda.

To His Excellency the Governor, we apologize for the disrespect that was shown. We ask that this matter be dealt with the highest level of integrity and that the citizens of this country be advised of developments prior to their coming to fruition.

There are many Bermudians who could not be here today, although they wished they could be. We thank them for their attendance in spirit. To those Bermudians who did not know about today's gathering, we apologize that we were not able to reach you. To those Bermudians who do not care, you have only yourselves to blame. In fact, we should blame ourselves for allowing things to go so far.

In closing, The Premier has expressed that "This too shall pass". We say "This shall NOT pass". We remain committed and shall not rest until democracy has been restored to our island home.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Janice Battersbee

Ms Erica Rance-Cariah

Ms. Marti Chiappa

Ms. Anne Hyde

Ms. Pat Ferguson

Mr. Gilbert Pitcher

Cc: Media