

Stop the Press! Stop the Press,

Mr. Editor, Hubert Ingraham has just revealed something in parliament, during his wrap-up of the budget debate that has peeved me off. He told the parliament that BahaMar's application to the government for work permits for 5000 or more Chinese will have to be approved by parliament because, as he said, "I am not going to carry this load by myself," unquote. The audacities of this dictator; did he not carry the load alone when he took it upon himself to reduce the salaries of opposition members, in the House of Assembly, without the courtesy of their prior approval?

Ingraham, do you think that Christie and the PLP are so stupid and brain dead that they are not able to see what you are up to, you dictator? Who do you think you are, you coward? The PLP, I can assure you, will not be a part of your parliamentary shenanigans. This is a policy decision for the FNM government to make and the PLP will not take part in your nonsense. Besides, when since matters such as work permit approvals and or refusals come to be a parliamentary process matter for debate? When, Hubert Ingraham, when? As you take pleasure in always saying, this is your watch and it is your government's decision to make, no one else's; the PLP has no say in the matter, as we have had no say in how you govern period. You have, certainly, on more than one occasion reminded the PLP of that fact, even during this recent budget debate.

I suspected, all along, that Ingraham would have preferred for a matter like this to have come up on the PLP's watch but he created these financing challenges for BahaMar, when he stopped their project and drove the moneyman out of town.

This, stop review and cancel decision of yours, Hubert Ingraham, thrust Bah Mar into the precarious position of having to resort to the devil for financing and so you will have to deal with the consequences of that decision. Ingraham knows very well that, whichever government be stupid enough to sanction the decision for BahaMar, or any other entity, to import such a large number of Chinese, will be chased out of office unceremoniously. Who in the hell hatched up this idea any way? With 10,000-15,000 Bahamian men, in this country, either unemployed or under-employed, can any government be so callous as to allow 5000 foreigners to come here to work? I curse the day and damn the hour when this decision was taken. Ingraham is a coward who, now that he is faced with having to make a real decision, is trying to find cover, behind one desk, in the parliament of The Bahamas.

All should know that whether it is an application for one Chinese or applications for 5000 Chinese, the matter goes to the Immigration department where the minister is none other than Ingraham's deputy prime minister. That is where the, yea or nay, decisions are made; not in the parliament. Ingraham would really love to be in a position where he could say, to the Bahamian people during the next political campaign, that Christie agreed, as well, with the decision to

allow the 5000 Chinese to be admitted but, I can assure him of one thing and that is that, hell would freeze over before that happens; Christie ain't no fool. Do you think for one flicking minute, that Perry Christie and the PLP would agree to something as stupid as that? If you believe that then, I submit, you are more naïve and stupid than I thought you were.

Just before making this startling revelation, Ingraham led his band of nincompoops to defeat a PLP resolution, which called for more money for poor people to bury their dead. He also refused to accept the offer of a further 5% cut in parliamentarians salary over the 5% he had suggested. He told Perry and the PLP that that decision was his to make, as prime minister, and not theirs; well we now say that approval of work permits is your decision to make, Hubert, not Perry's or the PLP's. Bring it to parliament, if you think you are so bad ma brother, and watch what the PLP will do in defiance. That is one hot potato you will have to handle all by yourself; you and your boys (because that is who they are-boys) that is.

Sir Lynden Pindling, in his wisdom, told me back in the 1990's, when I asked him for reasons why it appeared, at the time, that the Bahamas was not getting many inquiries from those businessmen who were leaving Hong Kong in their dozens to establish elsewhere in the world. They were trying to get out of Hong Kong before the territory reverted to Chinese rule following a century of British control. He explained that I was wrong in my assumption; that, in fact, we were getting lots of inquiries but the price that they were demanding was too high a cost for Bahamians to pay for them relocating here. Sir Lynden revealed that these businessmen wanted to land on our soil, for the very first time in their lives, with their entire families, i.e. their children; grandchildren; fathers; mothers; grand and great grand parents, with Bahamian passports in hand. He (Sir Lynden) said quote, "Forrester that is simply out of the question; it is simply too high a price to pay and this PLP government is not prepared to subject our people(Bahamians) to that high price and the culture shock to boot," unquote.

An Englishman, here in the city, who has been living here for more than 40 years, reminded me recently of his admiration for Sir Lynden. He told me that in his presence, many years ago, he witnessed Sir Lynden refusing, with no discussion, a Chinese businessman/permanent Bahamian resident's request to create a Chinese village on the grounds of the now demolished Shalimar Hotel. Sir Lynden, he said, told the Chinese businessman that under no circumstance his government would allow such a thing. It seems Sir Lynden knew the nature of the beast very well and would never have even considered this BahaMar workers proposal. Ingraham, on the other hand, seems to be comfortably in bed with these people and seems prepared to give them the entire Bahamas.

Don't forget this is the same Hubert Ingraham who made the rotten deal with Hutchison Whampoa of the famed Freeport container port, to accept a mere token fee of fifty cents per

container (twenty five cents in and the same out) handled in and out at their facility. This, while these same Chinese are paying the Panamanian government many times over that amount.

I submit that the only reason why the prime minister wants to get the parliament on record, as having voted for and approved (as they will, I submit) the issuance of these work permits, is because he realizes the magnitude of the political fallout which will follow such a decision. He would really love to be in the position that if this becomes a volatile campaign issue, which I suspect it no doubt will become, he would be able to say from the podium, at FNM rallies, that the PLP is to be blamed, as well, because they voted with the government. But, alas, he will have no such luck on that score because, as I've said before, Christie and the PLP are not foolish.

You, Hubert Ingraham, refused the PLP's participation in all other matters of national importance so what makes you think they would fall into this obvious trap you are trying to set for them? I can certainly agree to one thing about you, sir and that is that you are one bold, brassy Negro. Tell me, when the FNM government approves this influx of Chinese immigrants and they are all happily working away on the buildings at Cable Beach, what do we expect the 10,000 unemployed Bahamians to be doing? Sitting under the shady trees, on the Cable Beach strip, watching while the Chinese work and they continue unemployed and hungry? Beware!! This is a recipe for disaster.

I will warn you right now, Hubert Alexander Ingraham that if you have any regard for the Bahamian people and for peace in this land, you would put that "BahaMar Chinese work permit request" in file # 13 and leave it there; throw salt in the fire, if I were you.

Forrester J Carroll J.P

Freeport, Grand Bahama

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