

11th August 2010

Editors

Dear Sirs/ Mesdames

On 8th August, I released a statement on behalf of the Progressive Liberal Party as Opposition spokesman on the public service because the Minister's statement impugned the integrity of the police. The PLP's statement was a reaction to the statements by the Minister of National Security O.A.T. Turnquest MP on the crimes against the property of The Bahamas government over the past weeks.

Only one newspaper (not the newspaper that first published the story) sought to put the PLP's statement to the Minister and his response was as follows: "I am not going to engage Fred Mitchell on the matter. I said what I had to say and I don't need Fred Mitchell to interpret what I had to say. Fred is also trying to make a story where none exists, which is his modus operandi."

This kind of dismissive arrogance has become the stock in trade of FNM Ministers who have so far forgotten themselves and have become impervious to public criticism. They constantly confuse their dislike for the messenger with the message.

May I examine the comment that he made and show it for the foolishness, the rubbish that it is?

It is not Fred Mitchell who made a story where none exists. It was the Minister of National Security who on 5th August in the Nassau Guardian said that the government was being destabilized and that senior police officers might have been involved in further this destabilization.

These words came out of the Minister's own mouth, not invented by me and the PLP.

When juxtaposed against the words of their political operatives on the web and in the press, anyone with a lick of sense would know exactly where the FNM and its Ministers was headed with this. Blame the PLP.

Fortunately, the country can now breathe a sigh of relief because we have the objective evidence that what the Minister said was not true. There is no conspiracy afoot at least from political quarters to destabilize the government. The police have said so specifically. Further, individuals have been charged before the courts. The charges are standard charges of crimes against property. The matter will be determined in the Courts.

The Minister therefore ought at the very least apologize to the Bahamian people for misleading them in this matter; of crying fire when there was no fire. An apology is the least he can do in the circumstances where he really ought to resign.

Yours sincerely,

Fred Mitchell MP Fox Hill

Opposition Spokesman on the Public Service