

NOTES FOR LOVE 97 RADIO SHOW -- ON POINT

ON MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2010

by Philip C. Galanis

AT 6 P.M.

Show co-hosts: Rogan Smith & Toshenna Robinson-Blair

Other persons on the show: Dr. Ian Strachan, Playwright & Lecturer at the College of the Bahamas and David Wallace, former FNM Member of Parliament, West End & Bimini

Current landscape:

- The economy is in trouble and Crime is escalating exponentially;
- As is the cost of living;
- People are being laid off their jobs;
- Nearly 15,000 new persons have entered the job market since this Government came to office and most cannot find employment;
- While this is the case, many Bahamians are resentful that foreigners can find employment in their country, while they cannot;
- People are not only disillusioned and dissatisfied with the Government; they are angry and impatient. We see this in most advanced countries like the U.S. Britain Germany and in Italy and so why should we feel immune?
- We see anger on the part of citizens, blaming the Government for the problems that they encounter;
- There is no short-term solution to our economic or social challenges on the horizon.
- There is **absolutely no national discourse or dialogue on how we will secure our future.** There seems to be complete reliance on the U.S. economy turning around in order to save us.

THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS:

- I believe that it is generally accepted even by the FNM that if elections were called today, they would lose.
- But elections are not due for another twenty months and much can happen between now and then.
- There is more **disaffection, disenchantment and disagreement within** the FNM now than in recent memory;
- However, Mr. Ingraham is one of the best politicians on the scene today. He is **politics personified**.
- I see several things on the political horizon ---
 1. There is considerable speculation whether Mr. Ingraham will run in the next election. I believe that he will if, he is able to:
 - Get the economy to turn in a positive vane;
 - Complete the major capital projects such as LPIA, the road works, which will also have to alleviate the traffic congestion, and the Arawak Cay project, to name a few;
 - Get the approvals in place for Bahamar and/or Phase IV of Atlantis in order to generate jobs;

2. I am convinced that Mr. Ingraham will **NOT OFFER IF he believes that he will end an undefeated political career in defeat**;

ON THE OTHER HAND,

3. The process for the selection of new candidates for the PLP is well on its way **and** the PLP **will** introduce a new slate of impressive candidates who I believe will resonate well with the electorate.
4. Increasingly, I hear people saying that despite his flaws and weaknesses, Mr. Christie brings a steady and balanced leadership style that will promote and inspire the confidence of the electorate and investors.

5. Mr. Christie appears to be the best person who can hold the various factions together within the PLP, and so I have no doubt that he will take the Party into the next general elections;
6. There will be greater Party unity in the PLP as the campaigns nears;
7. Mr. Christie will have to convince the electorate that he and his team have learned from the mistakes of the past and will not repeat them if given another chance;
8. The PLP was more organized than the FNM in Elizabeth, although its victory in that bye-election was neither conclusive nor decisive. The Party will need better organization to win the next general elections.