

STATEMENT BY FRED MITCHELL MP

On the attack against Cheryl Grant Bethel

House of Assembly - Opposition Committee Room
Nassau,

17th June 2010

The Prime Minister's statement in the House in which he attacked Cheryl Grant Bethel, who has served as the Deputy Director of Prosecutions was remarkable.

On the face of it, the Prime Minister's objections do not make logical sense. If a lawyer serves for 20 years in the Office of the Attorney General and rises to the Deputy Director of Public prosecutions and then is pronounced within the space of three months to be unfit for the top office, he has a duty to disclose what made him change his mind and not hide behind innuendo without giving the individual the opportunity to answer whatever issues he has.

It is most unfair and defamatory of Mrs. Grant Bethel.

Further, the fact that he now says that he is willing to pay \$200,000 to get a Director of Public Prosecutions is interesting but if that were the case, he ought to have made this publicly known. I have spoken to a number of practitioners this morning who are Bahamian who are willing to take the job at that salary. The Prime Minister and his government never disclosed that this was the salary that they were willing to pay.

No Bahamian was offered that job at that salary. It is one thing for the private sector to offer different and higher salaries to non-Bahamians. But when a government does it, this is quite incredible. Where is the protection for Bahamians in their own country?

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