

Speaking Notes for the Progressive Liberal Party Mini Rally
At Gambier House 15th June 2010
By Senator Jerome Kennedy Fitzgerald

PLP...PLP..Protocol having already been established my brothers and sisters
goodnight.

It has been 3 years since the Hubert Ingraham and the FNM seized control of the Government with the promise to fix crime, fix our educational system and fix every ailment afflicting the Bahamian people. There was no end to what they promised. But we all know as the old adage says “ a promise is a comfort to a FOOL”.....What is interesting is that the Bahamian people did not ask them to make these promises and the PLP did not ask them to make good on these promises, BUT now that they cannot deliver on these promises and have made a complete mess of the vibrant economy that the PLP left in place, they are desperate. In-fact, they want to blame the PLP for the fact that they couldn't HANDLE IT!

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what their campaign angle will be when elections are called. Hubert Ingraham would have been the Prime Minister for 15 of the last 20 years and he will still be blaming the PLP. Blaming the PLP for creating a stable and progressive economy ahead of the global financial crisis. Blaming the PLP for having a plan to combat crime and other social ills via the Urban Renewal Program. Blaming the PLP for seeking to get assistance for the poor and indigent in society. Blaming the PLP for building more classrooms in 5 years than the FNM built in 10 years. Blaming the PLP for building twice as many homes in 5 years as the FNM built in 10 years. Blaming the PLP for record levels of Foreign Direct Investment. Blaming the PLP for a record accomplishment of increasing Government revenue by 57% in 5 years. The thing is no matter what good the PLP has done or attempts to do, Hubert Ingraham and the FNM attacks and destroys it, then when things fall apart, THEY BLAME THE PLP!....You know I've come to one conclusion – PAPA JUST CAN'T HANDLE IT! And when the next general election is called the people of this country are going to send that message when they elect the Party that can HANDLE IT!

You know, sometimes I worry about the Prime Minister. It's obvious he's

carrying the burden of his government alone. It must be difficult to have to make every decision and not have any real contributions from your team. Lately it seems that he's eating, drinking, sleeping and dreaming PLP and it is obviously sending him crazy. Now he so mix up, he is looking for friends in the PLP. You see where he say he is not going to agree to BAHAMAR without the PLP. Well blow me down. All of a sudden he wants to consult with the PLP. Well like the saying goes "he is on his own like Pat Boone" Don't get our leader and the PLP mix up in that one.... you make your bed you sleep in it, if the hat fit you wear it.

You realize Papa don't even have the support of his own team no more. I don't know if you were watching when Papa opened the Budget Debate the other day and no one on his side banged on the table at no point during his contribution. It made me wonder if many of them were hearing the disgraceful pain and tax measures for the first time like the rest of us. They were in shock. Then when Papa closed the debate, for half of his contribution no one was sitting behind him not a soul. Two lost souls eventually wandered in. Something ain't right. The FNM don't seem happy with Papa now Papa looking to the PLP for friends.

We know Branville tell him "My brother I ain't bothering with you no more" We understand Hubert Minnis tell him "next time you mess with me I gone too". I tell you he on his own. Now he want consult with our leader. This from a man who said he don't have to consult with the PLP for nothing. Called our leader all kinds of names inside Parliament, now he want kiss and make up with crocodile tears. Ya'll know why pappas trying to make friends ey?....It's because Papa know the PLP CAN HANDLE IT!

But seriously, ya'll can't see Papa losing it?!....OKwork with me here - When I ask you "what this telling you" I need you to say "Papa losing it". ~ Repeat

You don't believe me look at the legalizing of numbers, Papa say he was going to legalize numbers, trick the numbers man to bring in all their books then turn around and say no he need to consult.

What this telling you?...Papa losing it.

You still don't believe me, consider this, last month he signed a 40 year

exclusive arrangement to operate the container Port at Arawak Cay, with 19 companies who represent arguably 5 of the wealthiest families in the country, then he comes to Parliament and proposes to take away the duty free concessions for the light manufacturing industry where thousands of Bahamians are struggling to keep their business afloat.

What this telling you?..Papa losing it.

Now think about this, Hubert Ingraham allows the proposed highway and roads works to proceed on Blue Hill Road and Market Street thereby forcing many small businesses to close and putting more persons on the unemployment line, then he comes to Parliament and tells these same small businesses, that he has just closed down, that they are exempt from paying business licence fees for one year. Papa has no shame, he forget he just run them out of business.

What this telling you?...Papa losing it.

This one I will give you will probably get stuck in your throat and cause your blood pressure to rise, but just in case you had any doubt, chew on this one. He said things are tough, charities get cut, education get cut, salaries get cut, 6 month work program get cut, private schools subvention get cut, education loan scheme get cut completely, no raises in the public sector, then he comes to parliament and states he is giving the port owners 26 million in cash towards the port when we already contribute 100 million dollars for the dredging of the harbour, extension of Arawak Cay and the new road from Saunders Beach Bay Street to Bethel Avenue, all for the benefit of the Port. But that was not enough, It appears as if Papa has made provision in the budget to buy Kelly's dock for 15 million dollars. Papa can find 140 Million dollars for his rich friends and special interest group, but can't find money for the Ranfurly Home, can't find money to keep poor people employed, can't find money for poor people to give their loved ones a dignified burial, can't find money to educate our children and invest in our future.

What this telling you?...Papa losing it.

My brothers and sisters we have a Prime Minister who is putting his special interest groups ahead of you. He has demonstrated that he has no faith in you

my Bahamians Brothers and Sisters. Think about this.. In the last 3 years the FNM government has borrowed 1 billion dollars, half of this 500 million has gone on three contracts, the so called road improvement project, the dredging of the harbour and extension of Arawak Cay and the new airport terminal. Not one of them was lead by a Bahamian contractor, not one. Half of the billion dollars and not one Bahamian group at the forefront. Not even invited to the table of economic empowerment....No Papa say only the crumbs for you my brothers and sisters.

What this telling you?...Papa losing it.

Papa been saying for 3 years that he will privatize BTC. He say Bahamians need not apply..no no no, no Bahamians. Deadline after deadline past. Papa turn down 260 million dollars for BTC left in place by the PLP in 2007. Now he struggling to get an offer equal to the 130 million he had back in 2001; nine years ago. If BTC is sold now Hubert Ingraham and the FNM would have squandered 150 million dollars of the Bahamian people's blood sweat and tears. 150 million dollars gone. Papa say don't blame him.

What this telling you?...Papa losing it.

Now Papa won't even give you the job to manage the dump.he bring in a foreigner to do that, then he tell you the foreigner will sell you shares so the foreigner could use your money to make himself rich. Papa did this before, remember Cable Bahamas. Turn down 5 Bahamian Bidders and made a broke man Mr.Kepping a millionaire a hundred times over. Now he want do it again. Fool me once shame on you, fool me twice shame on me.

What this telling you?...Papa losing it.

I know how you feeling, I talk to you everyday. You know papa losing it and you ready for Papa and the FNM to go. But you tell me you want deliver that message to papa yourself. You tell me you just waiting to get in the ballot box and as bad as you want papa go now, you have something special for him that you want him to remember for a long, long, long time after next year's general election.

Now don't get soft on me and think that defeat will push papa over the edge, because he had no mercy on you and after Elizabeth he obviously losing it.

Finish the job my brothers and sisters....make sure Papa loses the election too.

PLP... PLP...PLP

Thank you and good night.