



Stevedoring Services and the BIU Sign a New Collective Agreement



At a press conference held on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 at BIU Headquarters, BIU President, Brother Chris Furbert and Mr. Warren Jones, Chief Executive Officer of Polaris Holding Company Ltd., the parent company of Stevedoring Services Ltd., agreed that the recent negotiations marked frank exchanges, honesty and transparency on both sides of the table.

“According to the International Maritime Organisation, over 90 percent of world trade is hauled by ship. For Bermuda, that percentage is probably closer to 98 percent and these gentlemen here today, and 35 others back at the job, the Dock Workers as we

call them, are the lifeline of Bermuda,” said Mr. Jones who spoke first at the press conference. “Prior to six months ago, I did not give the Hamilton Docks a thought. I drove past them and never considered their importance to the sustainability of our Island.”

Mr. Jones said that prior to joining Polaris as the CEO, he had heard many stories about the dock workers and all of the stories were negative. He said he had heard the dock workers were a ‘hard crew’ and that they were unreliable, inconsistent and would stop work at the drop of a hat.

“I certainly can’t speak for anyone

else’s experience, but what I found was a group of individuals who are clearly expert at what they do, take pride in their work and look out for one another to ensure that every person returns safely to their families at the end of each work-day,” countered Mr. Jones. “The staff that I have come to know understand that this country depends on them, even if the country doesn’t know it. As a result, I am pleased to publicly acknowledge them today. They are among the unsung heroes of Bermuda.”

The CEO said that when he began the recent negotiations he advised the union team that it was management’s goal that Stevedoring Services become the model for what labour relations can be in Bermuda. He agreed with Mr. Furbert that the recent negotiation process was marked by frank exchanges, honesty and transparency on both sides of the table.

“As a result, I think we came to an agreement that helps Stevedoring Services to weather this difficult economic period but also ensures that the staff remains in a position to meet their personal financial commitments,”

continued on page 9

Mistreatment of Guest Workers is Wrong and Symptomatic of a Deeper Problem

The Bermuda Progressive Labour Party today joins the OBA in condemning acts of verbal or physical abuse directed against our guest workers. The fact that they are here working in Bermuda, while many Bermudians go without work or opportunities is not their fault and they should not be targeted for seeking to improve their lives with the opportunities that Bermuda's private sector have given them.

"This reported incident is inexcusable and symptomatic of a deeper problem", said Shadow Immigration and External Affairs Minister Walton Brown. "While the OBA rushes to defend guest workers, the same government has referred to Bermudians as xenophobic and Kool Aid drinkers and sought to give the children of guest workers the right to work and compete for jobs alongside Bermuda's youth. In 18 months the message has been sent time and time again that the OBA plans don't make Bermudians a priority."

Today, many of us are out of work and more are beginning to believe that Bermuda simply doesn't work for Bermudians. They are beginning to feel that they simply can't compete against cheap, foreign labour willing to work in sometimes intolerable and inhumane circumstances. That's why the PLP has championed ideas designed to protect Bermudians from being denied opportunities and offered solutions to address the exploitation of guest workers:

- Requiring all businesses to include the salary range in job advertisements to minimize opportunities for wage disparities based on race, gender or sexual orientation.

- Introducing tougher penalties for violation of the Human Rights Act, including a provision to name and shame.

- Increasing penalties for Immigration and work permit violations.

- Strengthening laws and policies to protect work permit holders from intimidation and exploitation;

- Instituting Human Rights Protection for our seniors in the workplace;

- Instituting Immigration spot checks on domestic workers' conditions of employment to ensure that the conditions of the work permit are being followed and that abuse is not occurring.

There will always be employers who will place profit over people, seek to break our immigration laws and exploit or abuse our guest workers. That's why the PLP believes in pursuing a balanced approach that protects Bermudian jobs and opportunities while protecting the guest workers that Bermuda needs from the unscrupulous.

THE WORKERS VOICE

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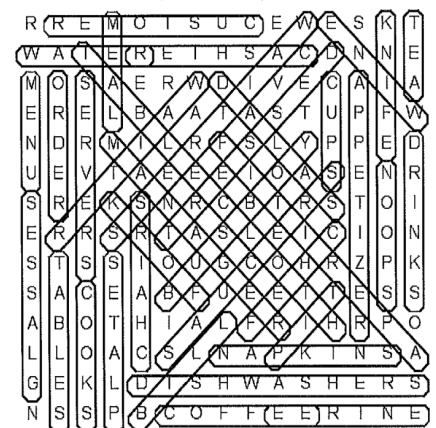
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PUZZLE • SOLUTION

RESTAURANT

This is the solution to the puzzle located [here](#).



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APPETIZER	CUSTOMER	MEAL	TABLECLOTH
BILL	DESSERT	MENU	TABLES
BUSBOY	DISHWASHERS	NAPKINS	TEA
CASHIER	DRINKS	ORDER	TIP
CHAIRS	ENTREE	PLATES	WAITER
CHEF	FORK	SALAD	WAITRESS
COFFEE	GLASSES	SAUCERS	WATER
COOKS	KNIFE	SERVERS	WINE

The hidden word is: RESERVATION

Drug Testing of Legislators “Smacks of Political Witch-Hunting”

In my opinion, the recent policy introduced in the House of Assembly by MP Terry Lister is vexatious and as one blogger on the Royal Gazette's website wrote, “It smacks of political witch-hunting”. The PLP described the motion as “irrelevant, invasive and politically motivated”. I certainly find myself agreeing with the PLP and wonder why after having served as a legislator for twenty-one years, Mr. Lister has decided in 2014 to bring this motion forward. Certainly, illegal drugs did not just hit the Bermuda scene since Mr. Lister made the choice to become an independent Member of Parliament in February of this year. That is why many in the community are questioning the timing of the motion.

Before I go on, let me say that I, like most right-thinking Bermudians, believe that the exchange at the end of the debate between MP Lister and Opposition Leader Marc Bean could aptly be described as “gutter politics”. In my opinion, both MP Lister and Opposition Leader Marc Bean were way out of line in their exchange. I am now considered an “Eder” in the Progressive Labour Party and as an Elder, I did what should be expected of every elder in the Party, which is to share my concern with the Party Leader. The type of language that was used has no place on the floor of Parliament, or anywhere else where the public can be privy to such an exchange from two people who are supposed to be leaders in our community. As MP Lister has chosen to disassociate himself from the PLP, I did not find it necessary to confront him, however there was a time when I was concerned about his public behavior that I

found it necessary to express my unease with him privately as I did with the Opposition Leader on Sunday past. But, that is water under the bridge now.

Now to the Motion put forward by MP Lister. According to the Royal Gazette, in “introducing the Joint Select Committee's report on the testing policy, Mr. Lister said that drugs could be easily obtained throughout the Island and the use of tobacco, alcohol, cannabis and harder drugs have had a significant impact on the community”. Why Mr. Lister chose to link tobacco and alcohol with the use of cannabis and harder drugs is beyond me. Both tobacco and alcohol are legal “drugs” and during the debate not one MP chose to reference anything about tobacco or alcohol. Certainly if it was the intention of Mr. Lister to sanction MPs for using tobacco and alcohol, I could understand why he referenced the two substances. I do know that both tobacco and alcohol are “easily obtained throughout the island” but I have no idea as to whether the illegal drugs Mr. Lister refers to are as easily obtainable.

MP Lister, in conjunction with Premier Michael Dunkley has proposed a drug testing policy for legislators that exists nowhere else in the free world. History has recorded that this policy was approved by all OBA members while the PLP members all voted against the policy. In 2012, a Republican member of the Indiana General Assembly withdrew his bill to create a pilot program for drug testing welfare applicants after one of his Democratic colleagues amended the measure to require drug testing for lawmakers because the Supreme Court in



the U.S. had ruled that drug testing for political candidates was unconstitutional. But, Bermuda has different laws and policies from the U.S. so what may be unconstitutional in America, seems to be okay in Bermuda.

According to the testing scheme, at least 15 random MPs and Senators would be tested every three months and would be notified on the morning of the test that it's their turn to be tested. This means that on an average five MPs and Senators would be tested once a month. That should keep Benedict Associates happy as it will add a considerable amount to their coffers as drug testing is quite costly and I doubt if the tests will show that any of our MPs and Senators are using drugs. Such a waste of time and money!

The questions I have regarding this new policy are as follows:

1. What method will be used to make the selection?
2. Will all the names of MPs and Sena-

continued on page 9

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Angry White Men in Bermuda

“Are there angry white men in Bermuda?”, is a question that has never been asked. While the discussion on race, and its impact on politics, society and economics has invariably focused on the black community and the angry Black men in this country, who kill one another and engage in a type of war between cousins; very little of it has actually centered on the white community, specifically the white man.

The term angry white men first made its appearance in American politics. It described white men as having a feeling of having lost influence in America in the face of emerging non-white minority women, and a general perception of lost political power in America as a whole.

The angry white man in America generally supports the Republican Party politically and in a more extreme manifestation of right wing politics, the often violent neo-Nazi or other anti-black or anti-immigrant groups that advocate a white power ideology. But what is its manifestation here in Bermuda and what form does it take? Do we have the same type of feelings here of white men who used to have full power, now having a feeling of lost influence and power?

Probably the quintessential example of an angry white man in Bermuda was that of the late UBP MP, Harry Viera. Often at great odds with the then political opposition PLP, anti-union, in particular the Bermuda Industrial Union, and

Bermuda's black youth, especially during the era of the black power revolt and civil unease in the 1960s throughout the 1970s. He once infamously called Bermuda's rioting black youth “termites and cockroaches”. Nevertheless he was the darling of Bermuda's politically right wing white population and was a good example of an angry white man.

What is the manifestation of an angry white man today and when did we see signs of its beginnings? I would suspect that happened when the PLP won the government in 1998 and for the first time in Bermuda's history, Bermuda's black majority gained control of the government. Even though the former UBP had black political support and a number of black Premiers, the truth was that the black Bermudians, even though the majority in Bermuda, throughout all of Bermuda's existence, they remained a political minority even when this country attained Universal Adult Suffrage with the right to vote for all.

It was then that we saw the manifestation of the angry white man as it was clear that even though the white community still dominated the economy, that was not true in the political realm where a black-supported PLP had gained power. It was then that we sensed a growing feeling within the white community of an acute awareness that they had become a political minority. So much so that they dared not put a white man at the head of a political party until now

THE OTHER ALTERNATIVE



BY ALVIN WILLIAMS

when former Premier Cannonier tripped over his own feet and found out that his stock and in particular the value of the black conservative politician has taken a nose dive. Even his erstwhile black supporter in the OBA, Sylvan Richards, who loudly proclaimed that if Premier Cannonier goes so would he, has quickly seen the writing on the wall and could be seen up at Government House at the swearing in of Michael Dunkley with a big grin on his face.

Former Premier Cannonier must have felt like Jesus on the eve of his crucifixion when Peter proclaimed “I will never betray you Master”, and Jesus having had to tell him “before the cock crows three times you will deny me”. One can only imagine that things moved so fast that former Premier Cannonier did not have time to even consider who was going to betray him.

And the angry white men that were so much in evidence before the OBA, now the UBP/OBA Government, came to power, where are they today? Well one can just imagine that they

continued on page 12

Shadow Minister Derrick Burgess Concerned About Rest Homes

The Bermuda Progressive Labour Party remains concerned about the elders in our community that reside in rest homes. We believe that the standard of care in some of our rest/nursing homes should be reviewed by an independent body and at the same time the Residential Care Homes and Nursing Homes Act, 2001 should be a requirement that is closely monitored by Government.

Presently there are not enough rest and nursing homes of an acceptable standard. As the population of seniors grows, the number of seniors requiring nursing care also grows. The PLP believes that at least three more nursing care facilities of the high caliber and capacity as the Sylvia Richardson Care Facility is required for our aging population. It is apparent that the Government has no plans to construct further facilities, neither are there plans to appoint qualified staff to deal with patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

Even for those seniors fortunate in being able to live independently, there are no plans to build further seniors' residences such as Dr. Cann Park in Southampton.

Finding a place in a good nursing home for a loved one is a process complicated by the creation of procedures that are lengthy and inefficient.

It is our understanding that a position was recently created for a civil servant to match nursing homes with applicants, but it is our information that the worker recently appointed is attempting to do this without visiting any of the nursing homes, assessing them for quality and risk or taking into account the needs of any of the applicants as per the Act.

A number of small residential and nursing care homes of varying standards exist on the island. Some of these homes are in breach of the Residential Care Homes and Nursing Homes Act and probably need to be closed. The National Office for Seniors and Physically Challenged need to address this matter as soon as possible.

Additionally, there is a pressing need for an anonymous abuse telephone hotline for seniors, both in the community and in nursing homes.

There are no standards for extra charges, or regulations concerning what nursing homes are required to supply. One nursing home asks families for an extra \$200 a month 'for items like ice cream outings and podiatry.'

I believe that Bermuda needs a Charter of Rights for the elderly – especially the elderly in need of care, and we the PLP will introduce such a Charter. A residential care home can fulfill all the conditions of the Residential Care Homes Act but be totally deficient in terms of dignity, respect, comfort and appropriate care. Bermuda also needs an impartial, non-aligned body to regularly review and inspect homes for the elderly, and to respond swiftly to complaints.

Some complaints that have been shared with me by relatives of seniors who presently reside in privately-run rest homes are as follows:

A stroke victim, unable to speak and with several deep open bed sores, almost skeletally thin, his body contorted and rigid and in urgent need of specialist nursing care was found at a private nursing home;



complaints were made but to no avail. The situation was resolved by bypassing all the protocols and moving the patient to another facility.

Residents in another home spend the whole day inactive sitting in designated chairs in a main area where there is no ventilation or access to open air;

One resident's nails had not been cut for a very long time, they were so long and curved that they resemble claws;

One home served pizza and salad for dinner; on another night sandwiches were served for dinner.

In another home there was mold on the ceiling and at the top of the walls, and there was only cold water in the bathroom.

Another elderly lady was admitted to an assisted living unit in a room with four beds containing a high non-adjustable bed with wheels that would not lock, a call button that was out of reach a slippery floor and no night light. The room was in complete darkness at night contrary to the 2001 regulations. During the night she attempted to get out of bed to use the bathroom, she tried to get off of the bed which skidded across the floor causing her to fall which resulted in injury to her.

Advancing in age does not involve any reduction of a person's rights. Age and dependency cannot be the grounds for restrictions on any inalienable human rights.

Just Sucking Air

by E. McNeil Stovell

When it comes down to government and who is really the boss, is it we the people, or just the selected few dictators who have gotten our vote and then turned around and slammed the door of deception in our faces. It's the only job that I know of where it is the employee who tells the boss where to get off. Is there something wrong with that picture or is my head on back to front here?

It would seem that some Bermudians are more entitled than others, or could it be that some still view Bermuda as some kind of a company town or a plantation of sorts and still see the African Bermudian people of Bermuda as their chattel property. I'm just asking.

After doing some research that I had carried out in the Government Archives some years ago where I had read through the "so-called" document on the Emancipation of Slaves in 1834 my eyes were opened more as to what was truly going on in the Bermuda of today, as compared to the Bermuda of pre-Emancipation. After reading that document what hit me the most was the idea that African-Bermudians are no better off today than they were during pre-Emancipation, and that the only real change that took place back then was just the modernizing of an old slave system into something new and nothing more.

The opening of my eyes in the Archives that day told me that it made no difference how free I may have thought I was, the fact is that even here today in 2014, African-Bermudians are still slaves in this modern-day Bermuda whether we want to believe that or not.

It makes no difference how rich I may be, history tells me that I am still a slave. It makes no difference what educational level I may have attained in my lifetime, history still tells me that I am still a slave.

What was in those documents that I read that gave me the impression that after all those years of alleged freedom for me to come to the conclusion that we blue-collar workers in Bermuda are still slaves. It wasn't just the cruelty and evil that brought slavery to an end, for if it were just that, we would be still owned by somebody.

No, it was the fact that slavery in the context in which it was held had become just too expensive to maintain,

and that something new had to happen in order to improve the system to make it more efficient. The only real thing that changed after emancipation for the slave was that the system had changed from that of chattel slaver to that of freelance slavery, whereas in this case, the slave was made responsible for his own upkeep. Thus, that's the state we will find ourselves in even today, powerless and on our knees and begging and hoping that the grandchildren of our former slave masters will provide us with a job? To think that we have come this far in history and to find ourselves going back to bang on the master's door for a crummy job. What a shame?

Now we find ourselves at the crossroads of a similar change once again Bermuda's history. This time it's about eliminating the slave all-together because they have once again become too expensive to keep around, or to even update the system to include African-Bermudian people. It's a shame that so many of us African-Bermudians feel that we should hide ourselves in the shadows of denial and not want to face up to the fact that the African-Bermudian workforce has become obsolete, and is being replaced with a cheaper and dependable foreign workforce, who are prepared to work 60 or 70 hours a week for even less pay to that being paid to an African-Bermudian.

I have always been told how intelligent Bermudians are, but I wonder about that these days. It's like we can't take a hint. The reason why so many are being pink-slipped out of jobs, and find it so hard to get another one is because the masters of Bermuda's economic institutions are ridding themselves of an obsolete workforce, and I'm sad to have to say it, but it's blue collar workers that they are targeting to get rid of.

What do I think about those so-called hazy job opportunities I see being thrown around? It brings to my mind of this stray dog that always used to come around the home of a friend of mine, mostly during supper time. The dog would just patiently sit there almost without blinking an eye waiting for the first bit of scraps to come

continued on page 12



Walton Brown, Personal Explanation delivered in Parliament 13 June 2014

At the June 6 2014 Parliamentary session during the debate on the Elections Committee report, the Hon Finance Minister made a number of comments regarding contracts I have held with the Bermuda government. In light of his significant misrepresentations in this respect I am compelled to respond to bring clarity where darkness has clearly descended.

The Hon member commented that my company had received a contract from the Bermuda government for \$770,000. This does not have one scintilla of truth behind it. When challenged on this, the Hon member retorted, and I quote, "I have access to civil servants... this information is authoritative... I'm not making this stuff up." Mr. Speaker, this clearly was made up since the member later indicated the figure he cited was a sum of a number of contracts over a period of years. In fact, my work with the Bermuda government spans a 24 year period.

The Hon member cited my contracts with the Bermuda government as part of his argument about "insiders" during the debate on disclosure of interest by candidates. In describing me as an "insider" during the PLP's tenure in office the Hon member is inferring unfair if not improper access to government contracts. Mr. Speaker, my contractual relationship with the Bermuda government began in 1989, when I was hired as a consultant by the

National Alcohol and Drug Agency to re-write an indecipherable report by an American consultant. You will note, Mr. Speaker, this was some nine years before the PLP became the government. My work with the Bermuda government continued under the years of the United Bermuda Party in the 1990s. Not one of these contracts was put out to tender. The Hon Minister for Finance will have this information at his disposal because he has, in his words "access to civil servants." The honourable member will also know that I was clearly not an insider during the UBP years. My relationship with the Bermuda

government continued, intermittently, under the PLP government, and even extended to the OBA term of office when I undertook a survey for the Tourism Board. Again, the honourable member will know this.

Mr. Speaker, robust debate is the hallmark of the parliamentary system. We have wide latitude, under your guidance, to expound on our arguments and to articulate our positions. What must not be allowed is for members to present false information without consequence and to manipulate such information to denigrate one of our fellow members.



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Stevedoring Services and the BIU Sign a New Collective Agreement *continued from page 1*

continued Mr. Jones. “While some aspects of the new Agreement are confidential to the parties, I can share that staff will receive a 1.7% increase in wages for the 2013/2014 previous fiscal year. This is in line with the Consumer Price Index for that fiscal year. Additionally, we have agreed to a wage freeze for the present 2014/2015 fiscal year, and this will be reviewed at the conclusion of the fiscal year.”

Mr. Jones added that the aforementioned concession allows Stevedoring Services to consider wages based on the realities of our financial situation at that time, as opposed to agreeing possible wage increases based on a projection that may bear little resemblance to any actual increase or decrease in cargo volume.

“Secondly, we on the management team expressed our desire to achieve one change in the regular operation of Stevedoring Services that would signal to our external customers that we are in the midst of positive change,” said Mr. Jones. “I am pleased to announce to shipping agents, truckers and importers that effective 1st July, Stevedoring Services will be open through the lunch hour providing Over the Road (OTR) services. Presently, and for many years, our hours of operation have been 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. meaning that there was no service through the lunch hour. However, from the 1st of July, we will be providing OTR service throughout the day. It is our aim to provide safe, efficient and timely delivery of goods to the store

shelves. We look forward to providing a seamless delivery service to the truckers who frequent the Docks on importers’ behalf.”

Before Mr. Jones thanked the members of the Port Workers Division of the BIU and the members of the Management team for the manner in which these negotiations took place. He said that while he was not party to previous meetings between management and the union, it was his understanding that those meetings were sometimes quite stormy. He said that the Port Workers have taken a risk and are trusting that he will honour the Agreement that has been reached.

“They have provided me with an opportunity to change their view of management. We have discussed Management’s expectations of staff and the Union, on their behalf, has discussed staff expectations of Management. As a result, we have found that we have many of the same goals,” concluded Mr. Jones.

Mr. Furbert noted that the new board that was elected in June 2013 and chaired by Mrs. Cheryl Hayward Chew began immediately working on the relationship between the Port Workers Division of the BIU and Stevedoring Services Ltd. because the previous Board of Director and management team led by Mr. Peter Aldrich had a different agenda. He said that there was a lot of tension in the relationship which needed to be fixed.

The Port Workers Division of the BIU has made a few concessions for this

current agreement,” said Mr. Furbert. “One that I can highlight is the concession of double time for time and a half from Monday to Thursday which will be in effect until March 31, 2015. All overtime for double time has been in the Collective Agreement since 1987 so as you can see this is a big concession that the Union has given up for the next nine months to assist the Employer.” Mr. Furbert and Mr. Jones agreed that they were looking forward to continuing the new and positive relationship between the BIU and Stevedoring Services Ltd.

Drug Testing of Legislators “Smacks of Political Witch-Hunting”

continued from page 3

tors be placed in a hat and then 15 names drawn?

3. Will the Speaker be included in the testing?
4. What will happen if the PLP MPs and Senators do not participate in the scheme?
5. Will they be expelled?

I think MP Michael Scott hit the nail on the head when he stated “This is a complete and utter misapplication of the reasons we are here in Parliament and a waste of time in the absence of any statistics show concern over drug abuse in the legislature”.

Hopefully at some point in the future, MP Terry Lister will come clean and tell the country why he believes that MPs should be drug tested.

Public Services International calls for the right to strike in a global action

Led by members of the global union federation Public Services International (PSI), trade union leaders from around the world joined in a 'Route of Shame' on Wednesday 4 June to call for the right to strike for all workers and shame countries that consistently violate workers' and trade union rights, in Geneva and 10 other cities around the world.

PSI affiliates organised 'Route of Shame' actions in Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Paraguay, Panama, Peru and South Korea. PSI Youth Committees took the lead in Chile and Paraguay, whereas in Peru the action coincided with a day of national strike.

In Argentina, meetings were held with the national government and missions of countries, as well as in Guatemala and Panama. PSI Bangladesh affiliates organized a human chain before the press club in Dhaka to raise visibility for workers' rights violations around the world.

Guest speakers along the 'Route of Shame' in Geneva included trade union leaders from Algeria, Belarus, Ecuador and South Korea— where independent trade unions are suppressed by the government, and from Guatemala — where dozens of public service union members have been assassinated in recent years.

We also heard how international solidarity contributed to collective bargaining rights being restored to

United Nations' workers. PSI also welcomed the participation and contributions of other global unions EI, IUF, ITF and INDUSTRIALL and the ITUC.

4th June was also the 25th anniversary of the massacre of the Tiananmen square, which we commemorated. No government has the right to repress and kill its citizens. The trade union movement calls for respect of human rights and workers' rights for all, including for informal workers.

The 'Route of Shame' takes place during the 103rd International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva. A major focus of the annual ILC is to determine whether countries are upholding their obligations to respect the rights of workers and their trade unions under International Labour Organization conventions. Countries of specific concern include: Algeria, Egypt, Swaziland, Turkey, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Croatia, Georgia, Canada, Guatemala, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Honduras, Columbia, South Korea, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Indonesia.

PSI General Secretary Rosa Pavanelli says, "A concerted attack on the public sector is taking place on a global scale, both in emerging economies where PSI affiliates struggle for full recognition of workers' rights, and in many other countries through austerity and privatisation measures that weaken trade unions and workers'

rights, and the public services people rely on. We demand social justice and the protection of workers' rights, instead of policies that violate human rights.

While some countries are exporting their anti-social and anti-workers models, global supply chains and secret trade agreements are also pushing workers' rights out of reach for millions of workers. This race to the bottom has to stop. People's lives are worth more than profits!

It is not by reducing workers' rights that we will overcome the current crisis. We strongly refute the suggestion that limitations to collective bargaining are acceptable in any circumstances and we call on governments and employers to act in good faith."

Pavanelli further says, "Too many governments prefer to act in the interest of the few, and that is why inequality is rising at an ever faster pace all over the world. We need investment in decent working and living conditions, supported by quality public services. We claim the right to strike for all workers, in both the public and private sectors.

All workers are entitled to social protection and a decent wage and working conditions. Traditional methods of engaging in global policy setting are failing to produce substantive results for human rights. We stand with the millions of workers who struggle for their rights and do not give in. International solidarity makes us stronger."

North Carolina Tobacco Farm Workers Organize for a Union Voice on the Job

Meet Federico.

Federico is one of about 100,000 tobacco farm workers working in North Carolina this harvest season. Every year, individuals like Federico put everything on the line and migrate from Mexico and Central America to North Carolina to work the tobacco harvest season. Expanding from early July to late September, the tobacco harvest season not only brings a lot of migrant workers to the state, but it also brings lots of revenue. North Carolina-grown tobacco accounts for more than half of the total U.S. production, making tobacco the most profitable cash crop in the state of North Carolina. Companies like Reynolds American Inc., Altria Group Inc. and Lorillard Inc., collectively known as “The Big Three,” hold nearly 90% of the tobacco market share in the United States, profiting from the hard labor performed by workers like Federico.

While tobacco brings in some \$770 million to North Carolina, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, workers like Federico do not see much of that money. After being recruited and gathered at the U.S. consulates in Monterrey and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, migrant farm workers are transported 1,600 miles to their work camps by way of overcrowded buses. With little stops and much less spending money on hand, workers must endure the travel and the uncertainty of not knowing their final destination. The reward: A

promise of housing and a weekly paycheck for three months. Federico has made the arduous journey five times now, each time getting a little harder because of his age.



“I do it because back in Mexico things are not well....There are no jobs, crime is up...and I have a family to feed, children to send to school...I do it for them,” explained Federico.

Working from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., migrant farm workers under the H-2A Visa status get paid \$9.87 per hour. They are the lucky ones. Undocumented workers who also work in the fields are usually, and unjustly, paid the minimum wage of \$7.25 for performing the same work. The only thing worse than the back-breaking labor and inadequate pay is the living conditions these workers encounter after they arrive to North Carolina. In a small white house with significant wear and tear and no central air, Federico and six other colleagues endure their off-time in the hot southern summer. The vast majority of workers do not get to enjoy

the luxury of a private home. In many camps, workers live in barrack-style residences, often without mattresses or pillows, housing anywhere from 50 to 80 people. Because of the close-quarters

and nature of the work, lack of hygiene and health-related issues are rampant in the camps. The luxury of plumbing and flushable toilets are replaced by unlit outhouses and bushes.

Workers and members of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), with the assistance of the AFL-CIO, are driving a campaign to encourage 5,000 more workers to sign up for a union voice on the job. The hopes are that with growing numbers and farm worker involvement, FLOC members can achieve better wages, working conditions and living conditions for the tobacco farm workers. It is for these reasons that Federico joined FLOC. “Las cosas estan dificiles, pero en esta vida se tiene que luchar para mejorar (Things are indeed difficult, but in this life one must fight for things to improve).”

Angry White Men in Bermuda

continued from page 5

are very happy with the change in leadership as I am sure that is what they wanted all along, as each poll had Dunkley ahead of Cannonier even in his own political support base. But there is still an undercurrent of angry white men just waiting to come to the surface, if their UBP/OBA government ever comes under threat.

One such person who goes by the nickname of “Stormin Norman” is a clear example of an angry white man. To hear him denounce the former PLP government, one has to wonder if he is going to have an overcoming. As he calls in to the Sherri J talk show, where he duly takes his licks, as he tries to bury any prospect of a return of a PLP government.

It is especially bad on the blogs where under a cloak of anonymity the vilest racial expressions are voided. Upon reading such comments I am forced to ask as a Black Bermudian “What do I have in common with the white Bermudian?” I can only conclude that Bermuda will learn the hard way. Already there are suspicions in the black community that the spate of lay-offs and redundancies have nothing to do with Bermuda’s economic climate but is a part of an economic/political conspiracy which is hitting the black community disproportionately, all in an effort to make the former PLP Government look bad.

Angry white man or no angry white man, the fool who forgets his country’s history is doomed to repeat that history at which time we will reap the whirlwind.

Just Sucking Air

continued from page 7

his way. His attention was so focused on what he hoped was going to be thrown to him through the door, that he gave not attention to anything else that may have been happening around him. I’m so sorry if it seems that I have a negative opinion about it all. Could it be that I don’t have as much blocking my eyes as others because I don’t see our position in this job market situation to be any better than that of the poor old stray dog at the door patiently waiting for someone to throw him a bone.

Maybe this might open up some eyes a bit. Remember these jobs are not promised to us. You will still have foreigners competing for those same jobs, so why do you think they are going to pick you to give those same jobs to that we are hoping to get, not any of your labeled lazy Bermudians. Forget about this nonsense about the glass is half full or empty stuff. If you are not prepared to work for slave wages, then I guess you better have your bags packed and be ready to emigrate to where you will become a minority within a minority, and then you can be sure that nobody will hear your cries then.

I won’t be surprised if some OBA supporters did contribute to the cost of the PRC case that was thrown out by Justice Kawaley the other day. I’m just asking the question. Did the government just file a claim against itself in that case with the hopes of losing it? No doubt that’s going to add another large group of people to the voters list and dilute the

African-Bermudian voting base even further.

And do you think commercial immigration is all about – jobs? You’re got to be joking. Wake up people!! It’s all about creating a plutocratic elitists class of rich voters who will even further deplete the voting base of the African-Bermudian. Well there you go again, another bunch of electors who would eventually becoming on the voters list, so don’t believe the OBA when they say that they are not trying to use Parliament to build support for their party’s support base.

I’m sorry, but for the OBA to have one of its rich white parliamentarians to say to the voting public of Bermuda that it is okay to lie and be hypocritical, and then to have noone in the OBA, not even one of its black members to correct him. If that wasn’t in your face enough, what more would one want?

Well, for one to believe that jobs are in the pipeline after all the jobs that have been lost, and the amount of businesses that have closed down over the last eighteen months since the OBA has been in government, I would suggest you take the time out and think clearly, because all that you have been doing since which is just sucking air, and you will still be doing that while watching others from other lands come and snatch those same jobs out of the air in front of you before they hit the ground.

New Legal Report: Right to Strike Backed by International Law



Employer representatives at the ILO are continuing their efforts to strip back ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association, which guarantees workers the right to take strike action, as the UN agency holds its 103rd International Labour Conference in Geneva this month.

Sharan Burrow, ITUC General Secretary, said from the ILO Conference, “Employers have been holding the ILO system to ransom, trying to discard more than 50 years of international law by removing the guarantee of one of the most

fundamental human rights. ILO standards are increasingly important as benchmarks in international trade and investment agreements as well as guidelines for responsible business, and ultra-conservative employer groups want to remove any real meaning from them. The ITUC and its member organisations are determined to see this challenge off and ensure that workers everywhere cannot simply be forced to keep working when their bosses refuse to ensure fair pay and dignity and safety at work.”

As the ITUC’s new Global Rights

Index shows, the right to strike is frequently restricted in law and violated in practice around the world. In Cambodia, employers even recently called on the government to denounce ILO Convention 87, while bringing lawsuits against union that took to the streets to protest against poverty wages in the garment industry.

“The employers’ arguments at the ILO are legally unfounded. I am confident that the ITUC’s case, set out in our new report, would prevail before any international tribunal,” said Burrow.



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Statement by The People's Campaign on Citizenship for PRC Holders



In view of the recent debate regarding the loophole in the law that provides a pathway to citizenship for PRC holders, and the defeat of the effort to fix the law by the government, The People's Campaign for Equality, Jobs, and Justice is hereby urging the government to immediately suspend applications for status based upon this loophole. In addition we are calling for proper bi-partisan legislation to close the loophole forthwith.

This loophole has been acknowledged by both parties to be a genuine oversight in the law, which in turn, violates the intent of the law. This is in view of the fact that neither party was aware of the loophole when the law was passed. Most importantly, this law was never intended to provide a pathway to Bermudian status.

It is therefore incumbent upon the

government to take immediate action in order to avoid the further deterioration of the issue. Bermuda is now witnessing the growth of polarizing lines, in which people are either demonized as being "xenophobic or anti foreigner," or they are accused of giving citizenship away for 30 pieces of silver.

Fix the legislation

The people's Campaign for Equality, Jobs, and Justice, hold that the honorable thing for the government to do is to fix the loophole legislatively. In doing so, the original intent of the law would be preserved. It would also go a long way toward restoring the confidence of the people, in the integrity of government.

Then if the government wishes to have a review of the current pathway to citizenship, that pathway should be undertaken on its own merit through

the establishment of a formal review process. Such a review should be guided by a desire to develop pathways to citizenship which are fair and equitable. Pathways that strike a balance between the needs of a small country such as Bermuda, and the rights of émigrés.

The loophole may provide some short-term political expediency in terms of providing potential voters who fall within the traditional demographic of particular political interests.

However the long term damage is that this action would legitimize the already growing mistrust of many Bermudians in the integrity of government. Such actions will continue to fracture and divide the country. This is a time when all leaders of this country should be working in unison to restore the trust and confidence of the people.

The government has a great opportunity to demonstrate to the people of Bermuda, mature, forthright, and moral leadership on this issue. Specifically at a time when confidence in the political system is deteriorating.

We firmly believe that charting the right course on this issue; will go a long way toward restoring the confidence of the people in the government to do the right thing for all of the people of Bermuda. On behalf of the people of Bermuda, we thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter of Social and National Importance.

Do You Know Who Are False Prophets?

"Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing,
but inwardly they are ravewingolves:- Matthew 7:15

The following list on the left hand side gives of the **Major teaching** of false prophets.
The right hand list Shows God's word which **exposes** them!!!!

FALSE DOCTRINES

1. Claim to know when Jesus is coming
2. Claim to speak in tongues and prophesied.
3. Forbidding to marry.
4. There are many bodies
5. The DEAD are unconscious
6. He that believeth is saved shall be baptized.
7. One must obey the Ten Commandments to be saved.
8. Prohibiting from eaten certain meats (food)
9. Sinners are told to pray for forgiveness of sins
10. After Jesus' resurrection he told his disciples To go and teach the world to observe the Sabbath/his birth
11. One is savedby faith only
12. Baptism does not save
13. God hears sinners
14. One can be saved in bed.
15. Many faiths

GOD'S WORD

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, Not the angels of heaven but my Father only.
Matthew 24:36

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them The Holy Ghost came on them: and they spokewith tongues and prophesied.
Acts 19:6, 8:17-18

It's better to marry than to burn.
1 Corinethian 7:9, 1 Timothy 4: 1- 3

There is one body.
Ephesians 4:4

The DEAD see, feel, hear, have memory and talk to each other.
Luke 16:19-31

He that believeth and is baptized shall be baptized.
Mark 16:16

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that obey not the gospel of Christ
2 Thessalonians 1:8

Doctrine of Devil's forbids to each certain meats (food)
1 Timothy 4: 1-5

Repent and be baptized, everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins
Acts 2:38

Jesus told his disciples go and preach the Gospel
Mark 16:15

Gospel (good news) is Jesus, death, burial and resurrection
1 Corinethians 15:15

You seen that a man is justified by works and Not by works and not by faith only.
James 2:24

The like figure were unto even baptism doth also now SAVE US.
1 Peter 3:21

Now we know that God hears not sinners, but if any many be a worshipper of God and doeth his will, him He heareth.
John 9:31

And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized and wash away they sins calling on the name of the Lord.
Acts 22:16

One faith
Ephesians 4:5

We Must Obey Jesus — Hebrew 5:8-9 • All who follow false teachers will be lost — Matthew 15:14
Please ask you questions. We will give you Book, Chapter and Verse!

Write: Search the Scriptures, P. O. Box HM 3387, Hamilton HM PX, Call: 735-1974

Restaurant

Find and circle all of the Restaurant words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell an additional word.

R R E M O T S U C E W E S K T
 W A T E R E I H S A C D N N E
 M O S A E R W D I V E C A I A
 E R E L B A A T A S T U P F W
 N D R M I L R F S L Y P P E D
 U E V T A E E E I O A S E N R
 S R E K S N R C B T R S T O I
 E R R S R T A S L E I C I O N
 S T S S I O U G C O H R Z P K
 S A C E A B F U E E T T E S S
 A B O T H I A L F R I H R P O
 L L O A C S L N A P K I N S A
 G E K L D I S H W A S H E R S
 N S S P B C O F F E E R T N E

APERITIF	CUPS	MANAGER	SPOON
APPETIZER	CUSTOMER	MEAL	TABLECLOTH
BILL	DESSERT	MENU	TABLES
BUSBOY	DISHWASHERS	NAPKINS	TEA
CASHIER	DRINKS	ORDER	TIP
CHAIRS	ENTREE	PLATES	WAITER
CHEF	FORK	SALAD	WAITRESS
COFFEE	GLASSES	SAUCERS	WATER
COOKS	KNIFE	SERVERS	WINE

SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 2