



The Party Line

The Bermuda Progressive Labour Party

Hard Work Rewarded at Queen's Honours List 2005

Inside this issue:

Message from the Party Leader	2
Hard Work Rewarded as Queen's Honours List 2005	2
From the Editor	2
Independence—The Journey Begins	2
Questions for Bermudians	2
Customs Department	4
20-20 World Cricket Classic to get \$ 1 Million	4
Speaker warns Opposition In Wake of House Meltdown	4
Independent Panel to Assess MP's Salaries	4

Upcoming Events

- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.

Riding on the historic crest of a voice activate, debate ready Throne Speech and the landmark June 29th 'State of the Country' Address which capped the Bermuda Progressive Labour Party's commitment to the electorate since 1963, Premier and Party Leader, the Honourable W. Alexander Scott JP MP acknowledged the Government and Countries acceptance of our social responsibility and openly asked Bermudians to recognised and appreciate the value and merit of our Government's commitment to addressing the ills of a community while providing the foundation for our continued prosperity through implementation of the Social Agenda.

Imploring the entire community to join our Government and rise atop the seven pillars that form the basis for our collective success; youth development, community spirit, education, training of our skilled workforce, housing for all, economic empowerment and opportunity, improved quality of life and a civil, law abiding community. Renewing the call to commitment, Premier Scott stated, "I take full responsibility for ensuring the goals of Government's Social Agenda are met. This is the portfolio on which I shall deliver'...I urge you to track our commitments against our delivery."

Unlike political programs and proposals, created and implemented by a previous majority than minority for the minority, throughout our history, our Party and Government's social contract with the People of Bermuda, is continuously realized and whose concept has secure roots in the wider community for a better Bermuda that will see itself as a collective that works best when they work together. Wanting not to forget those who,

Housing: A Roof Over Our Heads

On Friday the 3rd of June, Bermuda Homes for People, at a packed Ruth Seaton James Auditorium, held what will be long be remembered as the night, hope got a chance. 98 future home owners, out of 140, won the right to buy affordable housing units at the new Harbourside Village, at Ship's Wharf, St. David's.

As the names were selected at random and called out, elated recipients danced, sang or simply cried, as the reality of finally being able to own your own home sunk in. Husbands, wives, sons daughters, distant and close relatives, neighbours and onlookers watched with mixed emotions as their fellow Bermudians finally had their shot at



Hon. W. Alexander Scott JP, MP
Premier & Party Leader

though unsung, tirelessly contribute daily for the betterment of Bermuda, the Premier proclaimed that careful consideration must be given to ensure that, "Everyone has the opportunity to share, in a tangible way, in the economic success that is derived from our country's overall prosperity. To ignore the growing disparity between the Haves

(Continued on page 2)

the Bermuda dream. Premier Alex Scott and Housing Minister Ashfield DeVent joined fellow MP's Renee Webb and Wayne Perinchief who stood alongside BHP Project Manager John Gaston and BHC General Manager Vance Campbell in executing important rolls from well-wishing to selecting individual names from the various pools. Premier Scott addressed the emotional gathering, saying, "This is not the end, this is the beginning.....All we need is your support."

Housing Minister Ashfield DeVent, obviously feeling somewhat vindicated as one of his pet projects moves one step closer to reality, stated, "You

(Continued on page 4)

The Social Agenda

(Continued from page 1)

and the Have Nots is to do so at our collective peril...the Government of the day, will speak and act on behalf of those who have no voice or as it may appear; those who have been forgotten, and left behind."

Concluding his address, Premier Scott affirmed, "The Bermuda Government has lent the full weight of its authority over the next several years, to a decade, to assist you and others to fulfill your aspirations as you seek a better life in this land of your birth. While Government will and must lead, success depends on the participation of all of us."

Hard Work Rewarded at Queen's Honours List 2005

Former Premier and former Bermuda Progressive Labour Party Leader, Jennifer M. Smith has been made a Dame of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2005.

In a brief press statement released on Friday night, Dame Jennifer Smith, in reflection stated, "I am most grateful for being bestowed this honour by the Governor, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, the Government and the people of Bermuda. I am mindful that all former Premiers have been honoured in this fashion and I first give praise and honour to God from whom all blessings come. I know that this honour is not just for me alone. It is a tribute to all those people who have made me who I am by believing in me, encouraging me and supporting me: my parents, family, adopted mothers, friends, Branch members and the Officers and Members of the Bermuda Progressive Labour Party. This honour will serve as recognition of the Bermuda Progressive Labour Party's historic first election victory and, therefore, it belongs to all those, past and present, who helped to make that victory possible.

The Honourable Dame Jennifer Smith has the distinction of being, in 1972, the youngest woman to run in a General Election. In 1980, she was marked as the first woman appointed to the Senate and the youngest member at the time. Elected to Parliament in 1989, she became, in 1998, the first Bermuda Progressive Labour Party Leader to win a general election, the Party's first Premier, the first PLP Minister of Education and still serves as Bermuda's first female Deputy Speaker of the House Of Assembly. She joins former PLP Leader

Message From the Party Leader

He's Looking at You!!

What a difference time makes! Allow me to occupy a few lines to extend my warmest congratulations to the hardworking editorial team of the Public Relations Committee for the fine newsletter we see here.

It was not too long ago that the Late Honourable Minister David Allen JP MP and I collaborated to create the first edition of the "Party Line" and what a time we had. Deadlines set and met. Ideas, words, pictures and graphics. The cut and thrust of words meaning most and the love he and I had for the community etched on the pages shared with those closest to us, you

the membership. If I had the time, I would do it all over again.

Members, this is your newsletter. Read it, absorb it and contribute to it. Buy a copy, advertise in it, submit letters and articles for publication.

Here's to the hope we have in our Country, the hope for betterment still existent in our Party and to the realisation of goals encapsulated in our Social Agenda.

Happy reading!

W. Alexander Scott
Premier & Party Leader

From the Editor

Fellow Members,

With great pride and amid much anticipation, the Public Relations Committee and I, enthusiastically present the new, Party Line Newsletter.

We have set a goal of providing you with valuable, interesting up to date news articles of our Government's commitment to the social agenda and our measurable progress towards that end as a Party and a Government, editorials and membership letters covering a variety of topics, a clear and accurate calendar of upcoming events and a host of community and human interest stories depicting the unique lives we live in this Bermuda we love. It is our hope that you will find the monthly publications compelling, provocative and informative.

Our Party has been quite busy. From regional membership information forums that came to an address near you, regular scheduled constituency executive and membership meetings designed to 'up close and personally' address constituency concerns and lively, weekly Central Committee meetings where party policy and proposed programs guide and take root respectively under the watchful eye of our discerning Executive Committee.

Read and enjoy,

Scott Simmons
Editor



**The Honourable Dame Jennifer M. Smith
DBE, JP, MP, DHumL.**

and mentor the Honourable Dame Lois Browne Evans in being bestowed a Damehood.

Joining Dame Jennifer Smith in Queen's Birthday Honours are newly installed Members of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Dr. George Bertam McPhee ED and sportsman, Dennis Arlen Wainwright. Those awarded the Queen's Certificate and Badge of Honour were educator Merle Doars, banker Clement Talbot, community-allrounder Palmer Wade, tennis ambassador David Lambert, principal Sister Judith Rollo and Fresh TV's Elmore Warren.

INDEPENDENCE...The Journey Begins

In February 2004, Party Leader & Premier W. Alexander Scott JP MP reintroduced a once forbidden topic into the psyche of the Bermudian population with his statement, "Independence...is an issue whose time has come..."

The issue of independence has been an integral part of the PLP's ideology from its inception. Party founders believed that the process of achieving full sovereignty was a natural part of the democratization process. For this reason, achieving full sovereignty is enshrined in the objects of the PLP Constitution and remains sacrosanct to all PLP members. The achievement of full sovereignty is as important to party members as the development of a first class public education system, human rights and comprehensive healthcare. The PLP has never wavered from this commitment and always promised that as government, we would move to prepare Bermuda and her citizens to honestly address the issue. This promise was re-iterated to members and supporters in 1995 and now that process has begun.

Like so many Party initiatives over its over 40 year history, the stance on this issue has been forward thinking and visionary. Premier Scott took a bold step in leadership by opening the door for the whole community to have an honest and open dialogue on this very important question. Unlike Bermuda's previous dialogue on this issue, a conscious effort has been made to remove the political rancour in order to assist the public in getting valuable information and positively contribute to the choices that must be made.

In December 2004, the Bermuda Independence Commission (B.I.C) was presented to the community as the principal body responsible for promoting and cultivating an informative and educated discussion of independence.

The establishment of the B.I.C. was in keeping with the PLP's longstanding commitment as outlined in our 1995 Independence Policy Paper:-

"Actively educate the populace of Bermuda on the ramifications and responsibilities of national independence with a view to preparing for the eventuality, to be decided by the Bermudian electorate at a future General Election."

The creation of B.I.C. evidences the PLP's

unwavering commitment to the education of the Bermudian electorate on all matters important to our island's future.

Some may question the need to discuss the question of independence at this point in time, when our government must address so many challenges facing our community? The answer is simple: Governments do not have the luxury of dealing with one or even a handful of issues or challenges at a time. A government must address a myriad of issues simultaneously with equal effectiveness. A good government deals with current issues but also has the vision to shape and prepare a country for future realities and challenges.

The realities of the modern world dictate that Bermuda's external affairs must be as effectively managed and addressed as those that are internal and within our domestic responsibility. The British Government, under the existing constitution, is responsible for our external affairs. It is important and reasonable to consider whether this arrangement continues to be a benefit to Bermuda.

It is important for all of us to ask a number of questions. Do we as a country and a people want to continue to be defined internationally based on a dependent relationship with another nation? If the Empire is dead why do we continue to be identified with something that no longer exists? These and other important questions must be asked and answered by the government and the people.

The PLP has prepared a submission to the B. I. C. in which we summarized the party's vision for an independent Bermuda. As the premier advocate for independence over the past 44 years, it was appropriate that the PLP share its vision with the Commission. In preparation for the submission, a committee was appointed to draft this important document. This committee examined the PLP's 1995 Independence Policy statement and its key components, revising them in light of the party's experience as government. The team consisted of PLP members with a wide range of experience in areas such as Finance, Education, Security and Constitutional reform, to name a few. Their valuable contribution ensured that the Party's submission contained practical, carefully considered and informed vision for an independent Bermuda.

The Bermuda Independence Commis-

Questions for Bermudians

What questions do Bermudians need to ask and seek answers for when critically evaluating, thinking, reading and researching the question of Independence?

Patrick Henry in 1775 spoke to his colleagues and said, 'give me liberty or give me death'. He believed in the freedom of debate, and understood men having varying opinions. The PLP and its leadership believe in the freedom of debate, and last year the Party Leader asked the membership to renew the discussion. He asked the citizens to debate and discuss the matter of Independence. In order to achieve real debate everyone must be allowed to debate in hope of arriving at real truth.

Many times it has appeared in this paper, comments or editorials that define man in economic terms only. Perpetrating myths, fearful feelings and propaganda, by shrewd and open innuendo. These techniques are sirens of panic and thoughtless opinions. But to get to the real core we all must press through our biases, and prejudgments. That's a challenge, specifically, if one fears they are going to loose power, and control.

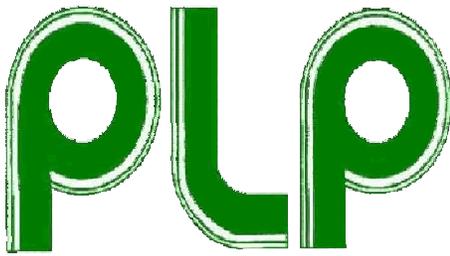
Patrick Henry and others have said it is only natural that men indulge in illusions of hope, new horizons, and vision. Rather, we seem to prefer to shut our eyes to the painful truth, and choose to listen to the sound of the siren.

The question is should 'wise man and women' engage in non-productive fear tactics? The question is how do you define man, whether with a soul, mind and spirit, or in terms of labor, and economic terms?

The question is where is your personal patriotism? Do you know what that feels like? Where is your national pride, what does that feel like to you? Should you who desire independence lie supinely on your backs, and only hug your allusive dream? Where is your voice?

In closing, Patrick Henry spoke to his colleagues this statement, 'There is a just God who presides over the destinies of all nations.... With that one would add, 'and some would even seem to fight against God', as Britain did in the War of Independence.

The Letter above was submitted to the Royal Gazette by Linda Merritt of St. George.



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Customs Department on the Cusp of a New Era.

With HMS Customs revenue expected to exceed \$200 million this financial year, Finance Minister Paula Cox heralded the proposed modernization of HMS Customs, which will see increased technology, staff training and more funding, as a step to achieving a goal of a Customs Department that is "efficient, impartial and user-friendly so that the legitimate businesses and individuals can demonstrate their compliance and proceed virtually unimpeded through customs controls". She further stated that the Department was well on its way to being 100% Bermudian staffed with several key positions now filled. She concluded, "The Customs Service is undergoing a process of rapid transformation in its focus and method of delivery and Government continues to be optimistic as we face a future filled with promise."

Housing:

(Continued from page 1)

really had to be there to know what it felt like. This is why I got involved in politics in the first place. We must now work harder. I have some feelings of disappointment for those who did not get a house this time around, but the good part is, there will be other times."

The 198-unit Harbourside Village project, consisting of 98 two, three and four bedroom affordable housing units, is being funded by the sale of 98 market priced homes. To date, 37 deposits have been taken and the project is expected to be completed by April 7, 2007. The project is being run by the non-profit organisation, Bermuda Homes For People.

20-20 World Cricket Classic to get \$1 million

With the Bermuda Cricket Board of Controls seal of approval, Bermuda is set to host the 20-20 World Classic which will see some of the biggest names in cricket battling for honours in the Over 35 Tournament next year.

Speaking at the House of Assembly Library press conference, Premier Alex Scott stated the event would be, "An incredible benefit for the promotion of Bermuda as an international cricket destination and a shot in the arm for the tourism industry."

Get Fit Foundation (GEFF) are poised to use the Classic to promote physical activity throughout the Bermuda community and will man booths at the matches. GEF Chief Executive Keith Pont expressed delight a bringing the event to the island and confirmed 41 out of 98 international players have already accepted the invitation to play.

Independent Panel to Assess MP's Salaries

Members of Parliament passed a bill on the June 3rd sitting of the House of Parliament creating an independent committee to review parliamentary salaries. The panel, consisting of an accountant, a lawyer or judge, a former MP, two members nominated by the Opposition and three members appointed by the Premier, are expected to cover all areas outlined in the Bill including a clause, that gained the Oppositions notice, requesting the committee look at compensation for both part-time and full-time Ministers.

Speaker warns Opposition In Wake of House Meltdown

In a spirited, stern chastisement, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Stanley Lowe, addressing a packed chamber at the start of the morning session on May 27, refused to accept the "regrettable, disgraceful and contemptible", lack of respect for the Speaker and the rules of the House executed by MP John Barritt at the sitting of the House just one week earlier.

Speaker Lowe reflected on the war of words that prevailed during the last session and urged all MP's to conduct themselves with greater dignity in future and ensure the House does not descend into anarchy again. Elements of misunderstanding and a " Freudian slip", by Mr. Barritt, accompanied by a failed attempt by the Opposition Whip to name the Minister of Works, Engineering and Housing with a motion tabled on the floor of the House, "deploring" the failure of said Minister to consult, as promised, with the residents of Alexandra Road before resubmitting plans for a Government housing project. The Government immediately objected to the motion and the Speaker expressed a desire to take the submission of the motion to a vote.

MP Barritt went ballistic with accusations of " attempting to muzzle the Opposition". Objecting to the objections and in the presence of absolute debate degeneration, the Opposition, led by Leader Grant Gibbons, walked out. Restoring clarity, Premier Alex Scott pointed out that MP Barritt had broken Parliamentary procedure by naming the Minister directly while reading out the motion rather than referring only to the "Minister responsible for Housing", as instructed.