

**EDITED  
SWEARING IN CEREMONY  
WEDNESDAY  
15 NOVEMBER 2000  
10.06 AM**

**ARRIVAL OF  
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR  
MR. PETER JOHN SMITH, CBE**

**His Excellency Mr. Peter Smith:** Good morning. Please be seated.

Can we proceed, please, with the administration of Oaths or Affirmations for the Elected Members?

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS  
OR AFFIRMATIONS**

**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

*Administered by His Excellency the Governor*

**The Clerk:** Official Members: Honourable James M. Ryan, MBE, JP, First Official Member.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE  
Hon. James M. Ryan, MBE, JP**

**Hon. James M. Ryan:** I, James M. Ryan, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**The Clerk:** Honourable David F. Ballantyne, Second Official Member.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE  
Hon. David F. Ballantyne**

**Hon. David F. Ballantyne:** I, David Ferguson Ballantyne, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**The Clerk:** Honourable George Anthony McCarthy, OBE, JP, Third Official Member.

**OATH OF AFFIRMATION  
Hon. George A. McCarthy, OBE, JP**

**Hon. George A. McCarthy:** I, George Anthony McCarthy, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law.

**The Clerk:** The Electoral District of West Bay. Mr. William McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP, First Elected Member

**OATH OF AFFIRMATION  
Mr. W. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP**

**Mr. W. McKeeva Bush:** I, William McKeeva Bush, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Rolston M. Anglin, Second Elected Member.

**OATH OF AFFIRMATION  
Mr. Rolston M. Anglin**

**Mr. Rolston M. Anglin:** I, Rolston Malachi Anglin, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law.

**The Clerk:** Captain Eugene Ebanks, Third Elected Member.

**OATH OF AFFIRMATION  
Captain A. Eugene Ebanks**

**Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks:** I, Captain A. Eugene Ebanks, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr., Fourth Elected Member.

**OATH OF AFFIRMATION  
Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr.**

**Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr.:** I, Cline Glidden, Jr., do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law.

**The Clerk:** The Electoral District of George Town. Mr. Darwin Kurt Tibbetts, JP, First Elected Member.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE  
Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts, JP**

**Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** I, D. Kurt Tibbetts, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Second Elected Member.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.**

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** I, Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**The Clerk:** Dr. Frank S. McField, Third Elected Member.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**Dr. Frank S. McField**

**Dr. Frank McField:** I, Frank Swarres McField, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Linford A. Pierson, JP, Fourth Elected Member.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**Mr. Linford A. Pierson, JP**

**Mr. Linford A. Pierson:** I, Linford Ainsworth Pierson, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**The Clerk:** The Electoral District of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Mrs. Julianna Y. O'Connor-Connolly, the First Elected Member.

**OATH OF AFFIRMATION**  
**Mrs. Julianna Y. O'Connor-Connolly**

**Mrs. Julianna O'Connor-Connolly:** I, Julianna O'Connor-Connolly, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Lyndon L. Martin, Second Elected Member.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**Mr. Lyndon L. Martin**

**Mr. Lyndon L. Martin:** I, Lyndon Leathan Martin, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law.

**The Clerk:** The Electoral District of Bodden Town. Mr. Roy Bodden, First Elected Member.

**OATH OF AFFIRMATION**  
**Mr. Roy Bodden**

**Mr. Roy Bodden:** I, Roy Bodden, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her Heirs and Successors, according to Law.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Gilbert A. McLean, Second Elected Member.

**OATH OF AFFIRMATION**  
**Mr. Gilbert A. McLean**

**Mr. Gilbert A. McLean:** I, Gilbert A. McLean, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Anthony S. Eden, Third Elected Member.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**Mr. Anthony S. Eden, OBE, JP**

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** I, Anthony S. Eden, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**The Clerk:** The Electoral District of North Side. Mrs. Edna M. Moyle, JP.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**Mrs. Edna M. Moyle, JP**

**Mrs. Edna M. Moyle:** I, Edna Marie Moyle, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**Clerk:** The Electoral District of East End. Mr. V. Arden McLean.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**Mr. V. Arden McLean**

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** I, Vincent Arden McLean, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, according to Law. So help me God.

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY**  
**THE GOVERNOR**

**His Excellency Mr. Peter Smith:** That concludes the administration of the Oaths and Affirmations.

Would you please now all be seated, the new Members?

I understand it is the custom that before I depart this august Chamber I am allowed to say one or two words, and I would like to make just a couple of comments. One is to publicly thank the members of the Election Administration Team who worked so incredibly hard to bring off this election. I am referring really to the administration, to the logistics, to the training of those involved. The whole thing took a colossal amount of time and effort, and I think it was very well handled indeed, technically.

I have rarely seen in my travels a technical election process so well handled at the centre, and I think you are well served for the future, as I have said in a letter in fact to the Supervisor of Elections, that you are well served having that competence and experience on tap.

To thank also the electorate, in fact, because if no one votes there is no serious government. People are being urged to go and do their civic duty by, according to my figures a most extraordinary coincidence, I think the exact same number of people voted in the booths as did four years ago—8,248. It is hard to believe that the figure is exactly the same. Either way, it is a large figure, and even if this time a percentage was a fraction down on last time, the percentage turnout that you had was at a level which will be the envy of many democracies around the world, and that does you great credit.

Lastly, my congratulations go to all the new Elected Members. It has been a curious election in one sense, I will simply say, because of the proliferation of candidates and of the sense really that, if I may make so bold, we may see a sort of coalition government coming out of a coalition assembly. I prefer to hope to see it as a national government coming out of a national assembly because there are serious things that need to be done and addressed very quickly.

You have all been given extremely heavy responsibilities, no question. And I will merely add that in addition to addressing as soon as you can the issues that will confront you in terms of Cayman, one island, please do not lose sight also of the importance of Cayman's image internationally, which is at present in good shape. But we need momentum and no slacking.

I would say in one sense, with a view of history, that you are the people now who have been chosen by the people to man, drive and direct the Ship of State, the good ship *Cayman*. These days that good ship *Cayman* is no longer a beautiful catboat sailing in coastal waters: you are a powerful, motorised cruiser going up and down the international highways. That is how you must see yourselves at all times.

My final point as an indulgence is, as I look around, I don't think any one of you did not sign up during the campaign to the concept of transparent, open and honest government, which is clearly what the public, and the voting public wanted. That's music to my ears, and I look forward to working together with you all within that frame-

framework as the way forward.

I wish you good luck in your endeavours, every success, and may the Lord bless each and every one of you, as I hope He will do also this blessed Isle of Cayman. Thank you.

*[applause]*

## DEPARTURE OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

*Serjeant-at-Arms*  
*His Excellency the Governor*  
*ADC*  
*Chief Justice*

## PRAYERS

**Rev. Christopher Baillie:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, from whom all wisdom and power are derived: We beseech Thee so to direct and prosper the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly now assembled, that all things may be ordered upon the best and surest foundations for the glory of Thy Name and for the safety, honour and welfare of the people of these Islands.

Bless our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen Mother, Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Charles Prince of Wales, and all the Royal family. Give grace to all who exercise authority in our Commonwealth, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us. Especially we pray for the Governor of our Islands, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Official Members and Ministers of Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that they may be enabled faithfully to perform the responsible duties of their high office.

All this we ask for Thy great Name's sake.

Let us say the Lord's Prayer together: Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us and give us peace, now and always. Amen.

**The Clerk:** Please be seated.

## PROCLAMATION NO. 5 OF 2000 SUMMONING A MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
MR. PETER JOHN SMITH, CBE  
GOVERNOR OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

**The Clerk:** Cayman Islands Proclamation No. 5 of 2000 by His Excellency Peter John Smith, Commander of the Order of the British Empire, Governor of the Cayman Islands.

**“WHEREAS Section 46 (1) of the Constitution of the Cayman Islands provides that the sessions of the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands shall be held at such places and begin at such times as the Governor may from time to time by Proclamation appoint;**

**“NOW, THEREFORE, I, the Governor, by virtue of the power conferred upon me by section 46 (1) of the Constitution of the Cayman Islands, hereby proclaim that a session of the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands shall be held at the Legislative Assembly Building in George Town, on the island of Grand Cayman, beginning at 10.00 AM on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2000.**

**“GIVEN under my hand by the public seal of the Cayman Islands at George Town, Island of Grand Cayman on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand, in the Forty-ninth Year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.**

**“God save the Queen.”**

I will now call for the nomination of the longest continuous serving Member of the House to preside.

**NOMINATION OF THE LONGEST CONTINUOUS SERVING MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO PRESIDE OVER THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER**

**Mrs. Edna M. Moyle:** Honourable Members, I rise to nominate Mr. McKeeva Bush, the longest continuous serving Member of this Legislative Assembly, now Father of the House, to preside over the election of the Speaker.

**Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** I rise to second that motion.

**The Clerk:** The motion has been carried. I will now invite Mr. W McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP, to take the Chair.

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (Mr. W McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP in the Chair)**

**The Chairman:** Good morning, and welcome.

The honourable House now being in session, I now call for the nomination of Speaker of this honourable Legislative Assembly.

**Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** Mr. Chairman, I beg to nominate Captain Mabry S. Kirkconnell, MBE, JP to be the Speaker of this honourable House.

**Mrs. Julianna Y. O’Connor-Connolly:** Mr. Chairman, I beg to second that nomination.

**The Chairman:** Are there any other nominations? If not, are all in agreement? Please say Aye.

**AYES.**

**The Chairman:** Noes? None! Carried!

**AGREED: CAPT MABRY S. KIRKCONNELL, MBE, JP, DECLARED SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY .**

**The Clerk:** We will take a five-minute suspension, but we will ask everyone to remain seated please.

**PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED AT 10.40 AM**

**PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 10.48 AM**

**The Serjeant-at-Arms:** Mr. Speaker.

**HON. SPEAKER PRESIDING**

*(having taken the Oath of Affirmation in the Speaker’s Office)*

**The Speaker:** Please be seated. The Legislature of the Cayman Islands is in session.

We shall proceed with the next Order of Business, the nomination of the Deputy Speaker. The floor is now open for nominations.

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER**

**Mrs. Julianna Y. O’Connor-Connolly:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to nominate my good friend, Dr. Frank McField, for Deputy Speaker.

**Mr. Lyndon L. Martin:** I second that nomination.

**The Speaker:** Are there any further nominations? Mr. McKeeva Bush.

**Mr. W. McKeeva Bush:** I beg to nominate Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr., for Deputy Speaker of this Honourable House.

**The Speaker:** Do we have a seconder?

**Mrs. Edna M. Moyle:** I second the motion.

**The Speaker:** Are there any further nominations? (Pause) Are there any further nominations? (Pause)

If there are no further nominations, I will ask the Third Elected Member for George Town, Dr. Frank McField, will you accept the nomination of Deputy Speaker?

**Dr. Frank McField:** I would be honoured to accept that nomination.

*[Applause and cheers from the gallery]*

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

The Fourth Elected Member for West Bay, Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr., will you accept the nomination for Deputy Speaker?

**Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr.:** Mr. Speaker, at this time I decline the nomination.

*[Applause and cheers from the gallery]*

## **DECLARATION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER**

*(Dr. Frank S. McField)*

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

In view of that withdrawal, I declare the Third Elected Member for George Town, Dr. Frank McField, to be the Deputy Speaker.

*[Applause and cheers from the gallery]*

## **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF FIVE MINISTERS TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**The Speaker:** The next item is nomination and election of five Ministers to Executive Council.

The procedure for this item is laid down under section 5 of the Constitution, and under Standing Order 5 of the Orders of the House, which govern the proceedings. The Chair proposes, subject to there being no objection from Members, to appoint the First Official Member and the Third Official Member as scrutineers if a ballot is required.

I now put the question that the Honourable First and Third Official Members be appointed as scrutineers for this election. Those in favour please say Aye...Those against No.

**AYES.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it. The Honourable First and Third Official Members have been appointed as scrutineers.

### **AGREED: THE HONOURABLE FIRST AND THIRD OFFICIAL MEMBERS APPOINTED SCRUTINEERS FOR THE BALLOT COUNT.**

**The Speaker:** Honourable Members and members of the gallery before I call for nominations to the Executive Council, I crave the indulgence of members of the public gallery.

I am aware that the general Election, the outcome of which we witnessed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of this month, is being eagerly celebrated. The results of this election are also eagerly awaited. But I must ask that everyone refrain from any comments, sounds or other expressions of jubilation or disappointment.

I caution you that this is a very serious matter, and the process can be more fluid if members of the general public desist from any manner of audible expression. I can assure that at the appropriate time an opportunity will be given for you to manifest your agreement.

I shall now call for nominations to the Executive Council by voice. Each nomination will require a mover and a seconder. I should say at this time that the names of honourable Members will be used rather than districts. Members are aware that normally in this Honourable House you are referred to by districts, i.e., "the First Elected Member for George Town," or "the Second" or "the Third"; but on this occasion, for clarity, we will refer to Members by name. This will avoid any misunderstanding by the general public.

We are now open for nominations of Members to the Executive Council.

Mr. Alden McLaughlin, Jr. caught my eye first.

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** I rise to nominate Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts.

**Mr. Linford A. Pierson:** Mr. Speaker, I second that motion.

**The Speaker:** Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts has been nominated.  
Mr. Lyndon Martin.

**Mr. Lyndon L. Martin:** I rise to nominate my colleague, Mrs. Julianna O'Connor-Connolly.

**Dr. Frank McField:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to second that nomination.

**The Speaker:** Miss Julianna O'Connor-Connolly has been duly nominated.

The floor is open to nominations. Mr. Kurt Tibbetts.

**Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** I rise to nominate Mrs. Edna Moyle.

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.:** I rise to second that nomination.

**The Speaker:** Mrs. Edna Moyle has been duly nominated.

Mr. Rolston M. Anglin.

**Mr. Rolston M. Anglin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to nominate Mr. W. McKeeva Bush.

**Mrs. Edna M. Moyle:** I beg to second that nomination.

**The Speaker:** Mr. W. McKeeva Bush has been duly nominated.

Mrs. Julianna O'Connor-Connolly.

**Mrs. Julianna Y. O'Connor-Connolly:** It gives me great pleasure to rise and nominate my good and honourable friend Mr. Anthony Eden.

**The Speaker:** Do we have a seconder?

**Mr. Gilbert A. McLean:** I beg to second the motion.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Anthony Eden has been duly nominated.

Mr. McKeeva Bush.

**Mr. W. McKeeva Bush:** I beg to nominate Mr. Linford A. Pierson.

**The Speaker:** Do we have a seconder?

**Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks:** I beg to second that motion.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Linford Pierson has been duly nominated.

Mr. Anthony Eden.

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** I beg to nominate Mr. Gilbert A. McLean.

**The Speaker:** Do we have a seconder?

**Mrs. Julianna Y. O'Connor-Connolly:** I beg to second that nomination.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Gilbert A. McLean has been duly nominated.

Mr. McKeeva Bush.

**Mr. W. McKeeva Bush:** I am pleased to nominate Mr. Roy Bodden.

**Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** I am more than pleased to second that motion.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Roy Bodden, has been duly nominated.

Dr. Frank McField.

**Dr. Frank McField:** I rise to nominate Mr. Arden McLean.

**Mrs. Julianna Y. O'Connor-Connolly:** I beg to second it.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Arden McLean has been duly nominated.

Are there any further nominations? (Pause) Are there any further nominations? (Pause) Are there any further nominations? (Pause)

Do I have a motion that the nominations be closed? The First Elected Member for West Bay.

**Mr. W. McKeeva Bush:** Mr. Speaker, I move that the nominations be closed.

**Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** After giving everyone ample time, I beg to second that motion.

**The Speaker:** Those in favour please say Aye. Those against No.

**AYES.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it. Nominations are closed.

**AGREED: NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF FIVE MEMBERS TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CLOSED.**

**The Speaker:** Nine members have been nominated and I shall call each member individually at this time and ask if they will accept or decline the nomination.

Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts, will you accept the nomination?

**Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** I do, sir.

**The Speaker:** Mrs. Julianna O'Connor-Connolly, will you accept the nomination?

**Mrs. Julianna Y. O'Connor-Connolly:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seeing that Cayman Brac has been left out, I am more than honoured to accept it sir.

**The Speaker:** Mrs. Edna Moyle, will you accept the nomination?

**Hon. Edna M. Moyle:** I do, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Mr. McKeeva Bush, will you accept the nomination?

**Mr. W. McKeeva Bush:** Mr. Speaker, I humbly accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Anthony Eden, will you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Linford Pierson, will you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Linford A. Pierson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Gilbert McLean, will you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Gilbert A. McLean:** I will.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Roy Bodden, will you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Roy Bodden:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Arden McLean, will you accept the nomination?

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do.

**The Speaker:** All members whom I have called have accepted the nominations. At this time we shall suspend proceedings for a few minutes while the Clerk prepares the ballot paper. Proceedings are suspended.

Since we are so crowded, I suggest you remain in your seats.

**PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED AT 11.00 AM**  
(For preparation of ballot papers)

**PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 11.06 AM**

**The Speaker:** Let us distribute the ballots first to each Elected Member. *(Pause)*

I ask members of the gallery if they would sit back in their seats in order to preserve the secrecy of the ballot.

I will now ask the Serjeant-at-Arms to pass around this beautiful sterling silver box we have for the election to each Member in order that they can see that it is totally empty.

I will now say a few words about the procedure. I think I am right in saying that there are nine persons who have been duly nominated. The procedure for this election is that (and this I am saying for the benefit of the public and the radio audience) the Standing Orders decide or declare that we shall have a secret ballot. Members will vote by secret ballot, and the Clerk is handing out the names of those who have been nominated and seconded.

Under the present Constitution there are five Members to be elected, so you will only vote for five Members. You should not sign your paper. There should be no mark other than the 'X' on your papers. Your papers should not—and I emphasise not—be identifiable. I am suggesting that perhaps you may fold the ballot so that it will remain a secret ballot.

Serjeant-at-Arms, will you now pass the box around?

When the Serjeant-at-Arms has completed showing the empty ballot box to the Members, he will then return and collect the ballots.

I again remind all honourable Members that there are five Members that can be elected to the Executive Council. After the box has been passed around and the ballots have been collected, the Serjeant will then return the box to the Clerk in front of the two Scrutineers. The Clerk and the two Scrutineers will count the number of votes. They will then pass the list to the Chair for the reading out. If there are five of the nominated Members receiving a clear majority of votes over the others, then those five will be declared duly elected.

This is the way I hope to carry out the proceedings, and I ask that the gallery remain as quiet as possible. Your time for applause will be provided.

If all Members have now completed their vote, I will ask the Serjeant to collect them in the box. Please fold your papers small enough so that it fits easily into the ballot box.

Will the Scrutineers take their place at the Clerk's table, the Honourable First and Third Official Members?

May I again remind Members to fold it small enough in order that it can go into the box easily? Will the Scrutineers begin the count?

**Hon. James M. Ryan:** *(The honourable Member read out the result of each Ballot Paper.)*

**The Speaker:** The scrutineers may take their seats. Thank you very much.

The vote has been duly completed and therefore I declare the following Members elected to the Executive Council of the Cayman Islands and ask that they take their seats on the Government Bench at that time. After they have taken their seats the audience may show their appreciation or dislike by applause.

The result of the election as verified by the Scrutineers and handed to me by the Clerk:

**RESULT OF THE BALLOT**

Mr. Linford A. Pierson, JP	14 votes
Mr. D. Kurt Tibbetts, JP	9 votes
Mrs. Edna M. Moyle, JP	9 votes
Mr. W. McKeever Bush, OBE, JP	9 votes
Mr. Roy Bodden	9 votes

I, therefore, declare the [following Members duly elected to Executive Council]:

- Hon. Linford A. Pierson, JP
- Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts, JP
- Hon. Edna M. Moyle, JP
- Hon. W. McKeever Bush, OBE, JP
- Hon. Roy Bodden

You may all take your seats.

*(Applause and cheers from the gallery)*

**The Speaker:** In order to fully complete my obligation to this election I would like to read the tabulation of the votes for the other Members:

Mrs. Julianna Y. O'Connor-Connolly, JP	6 votes
Mr. Anthony S. Eden, OBE, JP	6 votes
Mr. Gilbert A. McLean	6 votes
Mr. V. Arden McLean	6 votes

*[Applause]*

**The Speaker:** I would like to say to all honourable Members assembled here this morning, I have called these names as receiving the total number of votes, but that in no way indicates the position they will take in Executive Council, that is an executive decision and not necessarily

ily by [the number of votes]. If the honourable Members want to seat themselves in other arrangements that is entirely their privilege.

We shall suspend proceedings for fifteen minutes. Before so doing, may I congratulate all the successful Members of Executive Council?

*[Applause]*

**PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED AT 11.25 AM**

**PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 12.05 PM**

**The Speaker:** Please be seated. Proceedings are resumed.

**NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF MEMBERS  
TO THE STANDING  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

**The Speaker:** The next order of business will be the nomination of Members to the Standing Public Accounts Committee. This is a Standing Committee that exists under Standing Order 77, therefore there is no need for a motion to be created.

First of all, I will ask the Honourable First Official Member to read the terms of reference of the Standing Public Accounts Committee. The Honourable First Official Member.

**Hon. James M. Ryan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Standing Order 77 (1) deals with the terms of reference for the Public Accounts Committee. It reads as follows:

**“(1) There shall be a standing select committee, to be styled the Public Accounts Committee, to consider reports of the Auditor General—**

**“(a) on the accounts of the Government;**

**“(b) on such other accounts required to be laid before the House as the committee may think fit; and**

**“(c) on any matter incidental to the performance of his duties or the exercise of his powers as the committee may think fit.**

**“(2) The Public Accounts Committee shall be nominated by the House at the beginning of a new session following a general election and shall consist of five elected Members. The quorum shall be three Members, including the chairman.**

**“(3) Upon its receipt by the Presiding Officer, a report mentioned in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to have been referred by the House to the Public Accounts Committee for consideration and shall forthwith be distributed on a confidential basis to all Members.”**

Mr. Speaker, that covers the terms of reference. There are other sections pertaining to the operational side, but that effectively covers the terms of reference.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable First Official Member.

At this time I will call for nominations to the Public Accounts Committee. There will be five nominations.

The Honourable Minister of Executive Council.

**NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO  
THE STANDING PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

**Hon. Edna M. Moyle:** Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following nominations for Members of the Standing Public Accounts Committee: Mr. Rolston M. Anglin, Chairman; Mr. Anthony S. Eden, OBE, JP; Mr. V. Arden McLean; Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr.; Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., JP.

**The Speaker:** Do we have a seconder?

The Third Elected Member for West Bay.

**Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks:** I beg to second the motion.

**The Speaker:** Nominations for the Standing Public Accounts Committee have been duly moved and seconded. Are there any further nominations? The floor is open for nominations. (Pause) Are there any further nominations?

**DECLARATION OF MEMBERS OF  
STANDING PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

**The Speaker:** There being no further nominations, I declare the following as Members of the Standing Public Accounts Committee:

1. Mr. Rolston M. Anglin, Chairman
2. Mr. Anthony S. Eden, OBE, JP, Member
3. Mr. V. Arden McLean, Member
4. Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr., Member
5. Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Member

I will seek the approval of the House on the nomination to the Public Accounts Committee. Those in favour please say Aye. Those against No.

**AYES.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it. The will of the House has prevailed.

**AGREED: MEMBERS, AS DECLARED, APPOINTED  
TO THE STANDING PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.**

**The Speaker:** The next order of business will be the nomination of Members to the Standing Register of Interests Committee. I will now call on the Honourable First Official Member.

**NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF MEMBERS  
TO THE STANDING REGISTER**



## OF INTERESTS COMMITTEE

**Hon. James M. Ryan:** The terms of reference for the Standing Register of Interest Committee are as follows. For the sake of clarity it is covered under Standing Order 76 (1), (2), (3) and (4).

**“76. (1) There shall be a standing select committee to be styled the Register of Interests Committee for the consideration of matters relating to the Register of Interests referred to it by the Registrar of Interests.**

**“(2) The Committee shall consist of nine Members including the chairman all of whom shall be nominated by the House at the beginning of a new session following a General Election.**

**“(3) The quorum of the committee shall be five Members including the chairman.**

**“(4) There shall be a Registrar of Interests who shall keep a Register of Interests in accordance with the Register of Interests Law, 1996.”**

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable First Official Member.

I shall now call for nominations to the Register of Interests Committee. I call upon the Honourable Roy Bodden.

**Hon. Roy Bodden:** I respectfully beg to nominate the following honourable Members as Members of the Standing Register of Interests Committee: Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr., Mr. Rolston M. Anglin, Capt. Eugene Ebanks, Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr., Mrs. Julianna O'Connor-Connolly, JP, Dr. Frank S. McField, Mr. Gilbert A. McLean, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP, Hon. Edna Moyle, JP,

**The Speaker:** Do we have a seconder?  
The Fourth Elected Member for West Bay.

**Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr.:** I second that motion.

**The Speaker:** The nomination of Members for the Register of Interests Committee has been duly made and seconded. I therefore confirm that:

1. Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr. (Chairman);
2. Mr. Rolston M. Anglin;
3. Capt. Eugene Ebanks;
4. Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr.;
5. Mrs. Julianna O'Connor-Connolly, JP;
6. Dr. Frank S. McField;
7. Mr. Gilbert A. McLean;
8. Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP; and
9. Hon. Edna Moyle, JP

have been appointed as Members of this committee, and I have pleasure in appointing Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr. as Chairman.

I shall put the question and seek the will of the House that the nominees to the Register of Interests Committee be approved. Those in favour please say Aye. Those against No.

**AYES.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it. The Register of Interests Committee has been approved by the House.

**AGREED: MEMBERS, AS DECLARED, APPOINTED TO THE STANDING REGISTER OF INTERESTS COMMITTEE.**

**The Speaker:** The next order of business is the nomination of Members to the Standing Business Committee. At this time I would like to ask the Honourable First Official Member if he would move the motion.

## GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

### MOTIONS

#### GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 1

##### APPOINTMENT OF THE STANDING BUSINESS COMMITTEE

**Hon. James M. Ryan:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is Government Motion No. 1 and it reads:

**“BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 79, this House appoints a Standing Business Committee charged with deciding the order of business of the House and, in particular:**

- “(a) to prepare the Business Papers of the House;**
- “(b) to decide and inform the Clerk on Tuesday of each week the order in which Private Member's Motions are to be debated on the following Thursday;**
- “(c) to decide and to inform the Clerk two clear days before a Question Day the questions to be put down for reply on the Order Paper for that Question Day;**
- “(d) to provide a ready means of consultation between Members who are not members of the Executive Council, and the Leader of Government Business, the Presiding Officer and the Clerk;**
- “(e) to select a Member to read Prayers on each day of a meeting of the House other than the State Opening Meeting.**
- “(f) To inform the Clerk the order in which bills shall be set down on the Order Paper.**

**“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Standing Business Committee shall comprise five elected Members;**

**“AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the quorum for the Committee shall be three members of the Committee including the Chairman and that the Committee shall meet each Monday during a meeting of the House, and at other times as called by the Chairman.”**

Mr Chairman, this is moved by myself, James M. Ryan.

**The Speaker:** The Honourable Linford A. Pierson will move the nominees.

**Hon. Linford A. Pierson:** I beg to move the following nominations for Members to the Standing Business Committee: Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts, JP, Chairman, Leader of Government Business; Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP, Deputy Chairman, Deputy Leader of Government Business; Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.; Mr. Gilbert A. McLean; Mr. Rolston M. Anglin

**The Speaker:** I will [draw to the attention of] members of the gallery that this, being moved by an Honourable Minister of Government, does not require a seconder.

Are there any more nominations to the Standing Business Committee? (Pause) If there are no other nominations, I therefore put the question on the motion that the nominees to the Standing Business Committee be appointed. Those in favour please say Aye. Those against No.

**AYES.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it. The motion is passed.

**AGREED: GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 1 PASSED.**

**The Speaker:** For clarity, the Members of the Standing Business Committee are:

1. Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts, JP, Chairman, Leader of Government Business
2. Hon. W. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP, Deputy Chairman, Deputy Leader of Government Business
3. Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr.
4. Mr. Gilbert A. McLean
5. Mr. Rolston M. Anglin

**Dr. Frank McField:** Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The Third Elected Member for George Town.

#### **POINT OF CLARIFICATION**

**Dr. Frank McField:** On a point of clarification, you are using some terms that I am totally unfamiliar with, like “Leader of Government Business” and “Deputy Leader of Government Business.”

**The Speaker:** Honourable Member, I am reading what has been submitted to me by the Elected Members of Government, and it is my understanding, although the “Leader of Government Business” is not a formal title, it is certainly a title that has been used in previous Houses.

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Right.

**The Speaker:** In order to further ensure that position, there is at this time being appointed a Deputy Leader of Government Business, and, I may add, a Deputy Chairman of the Business Committee to ensure smooth operation.

The Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

#### **POINT OF CLARIFICATION**

**Mr. Gilbert A. McLean:** On a point of clarification, the two positions that we are speaking of, Leader of Government Business and Deputy Leader of Government Business, is that not yet to be done by the Governor some time later today? Or has that already taken place?

**Hon. Roy Bodden:** He doesn't do it.

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** No.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Member, as I said before, I am reading what has been presented to me with the approval of the appropriate authority.

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of clarification.

**The Speaker:** The Honourable Minister.

#### **POINT OF CLARIFICATION**

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** The motion was just voted on by the House.

**The Speaker:** The next item under Government Business is the appointment of the Standing House Committee that will consist of five Members.

The Honourable First Official Member.

### **GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 2**

#### **APPOINTMENT OF STANDING HOUSE COMMITTEE**

**Hon. James M. Ryan:** Thank You, Mr. Speaker. This is Government Motion No. 2 for the appointment of the Standing House Committee, and it reads:

**“BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with Standing Order 79, this House appoints a Standing House Committee charged with the duty to make recommendations to the House in respect of:**

- "(a) matters affecting the working conditions, comfort and facilities for Members during meetings of the House;
- "(b) matters affecting the working condition, comfort and facilities for the staff of the House;
- "(c) the operation and maintenance of the library of the House, and the provision of research facilities;
- "(d) the maintenance, upkeep, furnishing and equipment of the Legislative Assembly Building.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Standing House Committee shall comprise five elected Members one of whom will be elected by the Members of the Committee as Chairman, and one as Deputy Chairman.

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the quorum for the Committee shall be three Members of the Committee including the Chairman or Deputy Chairman."

This is moved by me, James M. Ryan.

**The Speaker:** Government Motion No. 2 has been duly moved. I now call for nominations for the appointment of Members to the Standing House Committee.

The Honourable Minister.

**Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate the following persons to be the Members of the Standing House Committee: Mr. Gilbert A. McLean, Capt. Eugene Ebanks, Mr. Lyndon Martin, Dr. Frank McField, and Mrs. Julianna O'Connor-Connolly, JP.

**The Speaker:** Again, there is no seconder required. Are there any further nominations? The floor is open. (Pause)

#### DECLARATION

**The Speaker:** There being no further nominations, I declare that the following Members have been elected as Members of the Standing House Committee:

1. Mr. Gilbert A. McLean
2. Capt. Eugene Ebanks
3. Mr. Lyndon L. Martin
4. Dr. Frank S. McField
5. Mrs. Julianna Y. O'Connor-Connolly, JP

**The Speaker:** I will decline to appoint a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman. I will allow that to be done at the first meeting of the Standing House Committee, which will be presided over by the Father of the House, the Honourable W. McKeever Bush.

I shall now put the question that Government Motion No. 2 be approved. Those in favour please say Aye. Those against No.

**AYES.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it. Government Motion No. 2 has been duly passed.

**AGREED: GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 2 PASSED.**

**The Speaker:** That concludes the appointments and nominations of Members to the Standing Select Committees.

The next order of Business is Government Motion No. 3, Advance Expenditure prior to the Appropriation Bill, 2001. The Honourable Third Official Member.

### GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 3

#### ADVANCE EXPENDITURE PRIOR TO THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 2001

**Hon. George A. McCarthy:** Mr. Speaker, I beg to move Government Motion No. 3, which reads:

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House, acting in accordance with the provisions of section 8(1) of the Public Finance and Audit Law (Law 23 of 1985 (1997 Revision)), in advance of an Appropriation Law, authorises expenditure of CI \$69,521,439 for the services of the Government in respect of the 2001 financial year, the sum to be charged on revenue in accordance with the Public Finance and Audit Law, 1985, and to be used for the purposes detailed in the attached schedule."

Just to interject before I go into the details: As honourable Members of this House are very much aware, and also members of the public, in any year in which there is a general election, a motion such as this is normally brought to this honourable House seeking approval to cover ongoing expenditure requirements until the budget for the ensuing year is approved. That budget is normally brought around March, or when the first meeting of the House for the New Year is being held.

Mr. Speaker, by Portfolios and Ministries, the sums required are:

#### OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

His Excellency the Governor	\$ 136,684
Cayman Islands Audit Office	210,444
Judicial Department	1,014,152

#### PORTFOLIO OF INTERNAL & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Internal & External Affairs	\$1,151,244
Immigration	945,627
Police	3,094,694
Prison	1,426,543
Personnel	682,297
Computer Services	932,722
Legislative Department	593,441

Broadcasting 267,491

**PORTFOLIO OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

Legal Affairs \$736,213

**PORTFOLIO OF FINANCE AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Portfolio of Finance and Economic  
Development \$6,921,346  
Customs 1,290,712  
General Registry and Shipping 602,686  
Statistics Office 103,219  
Treasury 364,821

**MINISTRY OF TOURISM, COMMERCE,  
TRANSPORT AND WORKS**

Ministry of Tourism, Commerce, Transport  
and Works \$ 802,215  
Fire Department 1,540,302  
Tourism 5,735,468  
Public Works Department 2,553,427  
Department of Vehicles and Equipment  
Services 387,891

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, SPORTS, WOMEN, YOUTH  
AND CULTURE**

Ministry of Community Affairs, Sports, Women,  
Youth and Culture \$ 2,291,133  
Labour 156,476  
Cayman Brac and Little Cayman  
Administration 1,194,003

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE,  
DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION**

Ministry of Health, Social Welfare, Drug  
Abuse Prevention and Rehabilitation \$ 354,084  
Substance Abuse Services 287,477  
Health Services 9,745,441  
Social Services 3,472,861

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, COMMUNICATIONS,  
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Ministry of Agriculture, Communications,  
Environment and Natural Resources \$ 987,458  
Agriculture 658,379  
Environment 343,723  
Environmental Health 1,433,914  
Mosquito Research and Control Unit 655,395  
Lands and Survey 1,607,167  
Postal 812,294

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, AVIATION  
AND PLANNING**

Ministry of Education, Aviation and Planning \$ 2,954,046  
Planning Department 501,849  
Education 7,072,100

The total estimated recurrent expenditure amounts to the figures I have read, the quantum: \$66,021,439.

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

Capital Acquisition \$1,000,000  
Capital Development 2,500,000  
  
Overall total \$69,521,439

I should point out for the benefit of honourable Members and for the listening public, the ongoing capital expenditure, or what is likely to be carried over from the year 2000 into 2001, amounts to \$13,610,092.

The suggestion by the Public Works Department is that, based on expenditure track records taking place in previous years and more recently, it is likely that the range of expenditure that will be incurred for capital development will be between \$2 million and \$5 million. So, prudence will suggest that the best approach is to take the midway point of \$2.5 million.

What is going to happen is that the Ministry having responsibility for Public Works Department, and also into the budget process itself, a decision will be taken in terms of what ongoing projects will be given priority. On this basis, a decision will be made as to how much of this \$2.5 million will be spent and on what projects.

Also for recurrent expenditure, what we have used as a gauge is one quarter of the provisions for the year 2000. But the budget process is just about to commence, and interviews will be taking place with controlling and accounting officers within departments. Although approval is being sought for \$66 million, every effort will be made to contain expenditure to the minimum sum required to ensure the efficient operation of departments—that will be Ministries, Portfolios and Departments.

This means that this sum will be factored into the budget for the year 2001, and every effort will be made to ensure that expenditure is incurred only for services necessary to ensure that the business of government continues.

Honourable Members will also recall that we normally have a separate provision in the estimates, and this is statutory expenditure. This is governed by laws that have been put in place, for example Loan Bills that have been passed by this honourable House, and also other statutory legislation such as pensions, whatever gives rise to a legal obligation. This is not normally set out as a part of the sum that requires approval by this honourable House. For the year 2000, the provision of \$37,037,773 was made.

It will be necessary to defray ongoing expenditure in that repayments against loans and payment to pensioners and other statutory obligations will have to be made.

made. Again, these payments will be charged on the revenue for the year 2001, but every effort will be made to ensure only necessary expenditures, and these are normally set out in accordance with schedules that would have been agreed upon by the financing institutions. The payment of pensioners is normally set out based on agreed formulas.

So, every effort will be made until the budget is brought to this honourable House to ensure that the most prudent practice and approach is adopted to ensure that value for money is obtained, and to ensure that the necessary scrutiny is given to the budget process.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this motion to honourable Members.

**The Speaker:** Government Motion No. 3 has been duly moved and is now open for debate. Does any Member wish to debate?

The Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**Mr. Gilbert A. McLean:** I rise to raise a few questions on the motion before the House.

The motion asks for approval from this House for approximately \$70 million in advance. I would like if the Financial Secretary could indicate whether this advance would be considered part of the 2000-2001 budget. Can he give some indication as to what the present financial position of Government is? Thirdly, [would he give] an indication of how soon a meeting of the Finance Committee might be held?

**The Speaker:** The Honourable Third Official Member.

**Hon. George A. McCarthy:** The sum being sought through this motion will be inclusive in the budget for the year 2001—

**The Speaker:** Honourable Third Official Member, if I may inject at this time, the floor is open to debate. If you speak at this time, you will be winding-up and closing the debate. So I would appreciate if you would just note the questions from Members and answer them in your winding-up.

The Third Elected Member for George Town.

**Dr. Frank McField:** It is interesting that Members that were on this Backbench who considered themselves Opposition in the last Legislative Assembly, who also realise the importance of transparency and who now sit in Government positions, were the same persons that were concerned about the fact that Finance Committee did not meet before the general elections this year.

Those of us who are returning to this House, who experienced at that particular time the past Government's almost unwillingness to divulge to us the financial situation the country is in, find it difficult at this particular point for the Financial Secretary to bring a motion asking for this sum of money as part of the next budget, 2000 - 2001, without any kind of reference to the financial situation the country is in at the moment.

Perhaps, the good gentlemen that now occupy the Government [bench] can say exactly how their supporters on the Backbench view this, since they, as Government, might find themselves already in a very difficult position as a result of their collective responsibilities. Members of the Backbench here have the right to ask that before this motion is approved further information be supplied to this House. I would suggest that the good Financial Secretary withdraw this motion until we have been provided with such information.

*[Applause]*

**The Speaker:** Please, no applause.

Does any other Member wish to speak?

**Hon. Linford A. Pierson:** Yes Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The honourable Minister.

**Hon. Linford A. Pierson:** The request in this Government Motion No. 3 is not an usual request when there is an election in the country.

The reason for this is that the budget is normally held up until some time into the early part of the ensuing year, usually around February or March. The country has to continue, and the reason why the Honourable Third Official Member is requesting this advance is to carry the country through until this honourable House has approved the budget. This is not an unusual request for the recurrent position. You have to pay salaries and other recurrent expenditures of Government.

Similarly, in regard to the capital expenditure and capital acquisition expenses, these are expenses that will carry over into the ensuing year and these expenses have to be met. So, this is not an unusual situation. It is really done every four years when there is an election. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The honourable Minister.

**Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts:** Just to add to that, the only difference between us, the Government, and the Members of the Backbench at present, is the step across a few minutes ago. The fact is, we don't know anything more than the Backbench knows at this point in time. It was not the Government, from that point of view, who prepared the document. So it is, as my colleague as said, customary for that to happen.

Also, we have to bear in mind that the Legislative Assembly will not resume until March, which will be the combination of the Budget Session and the Throne Speech. This matter has to be dealt with prior to that for the country to continue business, so we have to bear that in mind. It is not something that we can do anything about at present.

**The Speaker:** The floor is open to debate. Does any other Member wish to speak?

The First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

**Mrs. Julianna O'Connor-Connolly:** Also, commencing in the vein of transparency and accountability—which I fully ran my campaign in and have the utmost faith that the newly elected Ministers and Government would adhere to since that concept was given genesis by some of those Members—I wonder whether perhaps it is not prudent to check with the Financial Secretary, who is quite diligent, to find out whether he has that knowledge, that is, the current status of our financial position.

One would trust that if we are running the Government properly, it would only take a phone call to get that information; take a short adjournment so that Members can peruse it and then move forward.

**The Speaker:** The honourable Minister.

**Hon. W. McKeeva Bush:** Whatever we can do to satisfy the House I think the Government is willing to do because the last Member speaking and the Third Elected Member for Bodden Town should well know what the position is. They should be ready, willing, and able to inform this honourable Legislative Assembly of what the position is because they only demitted the office a few days ago. We have not been to the Glass House yet!

But in truth, two Members of the Backbench were Members of the previous Executive Council just leaving office, so they should be well equipped to inform us of the situation. But whatever we can do to help them out, we are willing.

**The Speaker:** The floor is open to debate. Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Second Elected for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

**Mr. Lyndon L. Martin:** The First Elected Member for George Town has advocated for several years the Medium Term Financial Strategy. I believe with such a plan that would project Government's revenue and expenditure over a five-year period, that when it comes to times like this where we have to advance accounts, we at least would have a basis to judge that advance account against.

I am hoping that the Minister is in a position to make an influence on such medium term planning that we could see such a document put in place. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Does any other Member wish to speak? The floor is open to debate. (Pause) Does any other Member wish to speak? The floor is open to debate. (Pause) Does any other Member wish to speak? The floor is open to debate. (Pause)

If no other Member wishes to speak does the Honourable mover wish to exercise his right of reply? The Honourable Third Official Member.

**Hon. George A. McCarthy:** Responding to the questions

tions in the order in which they have been raised, the Second Elected Member for Bodden Town raised the question as to whether this sum for which approval is now being sought will form part of the budget for the year 2001. Yes, it will. But, as I mentioned, it is unlikely . . . and we hope that the expenditure that will be incurred up to the time of the budget being brought will be contained within the level of the advance for which approval is now being sought.

In the event that that sum have to be varied materially, there is the option for a meeting of Finance Committee to be held.

The second point that has been raised is the current state of the Government's financial position. We are in the process of finalising the financial position as at the end of October. This will be done during the course of this week. The intent is that the honourable Members of Executive Council, who have now been sworn in, will be updated on the Government's financial position. We have almost in readiness (subject to a review being carried out) the agenda of Finance Committee. So, that will also be reviewed by the newly appointed Executive Council.

This means that as soon as the financial position has been communicated to the new Government and the agenda of Finance Committee has been reviewed, a decision will be sought, hopefully quite soon, for a meeting of Finance Committee to be held. When that Finance Committee meeting is held (and we trust that it can be done within the next fortnight) then all honourable Members of this Legislature will be apprised of the financial position of the Government and all relevant information will then be supplied. This will include expenditure to date.

However, there is a question that has been raised by the Second Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, and implicit in this is the funding of the advance amount of approximately \$69 million. This will be against the revenue for 2001. But we do recognise that it will be impacted by the state of affairs for the year 2000, because whatever the carryover balance is into the year 2001, that will affect the source of financing that will be available for that year.

We are hoping at least for a breakeven position, but I would rather not give an outline of that position at this time until the Treasury has done its assessment. Then honourable Members of this House can be properly apprised as to the likely financial outturn for the year.

At that time, every attempt will be made to provide Members with details they will regard relevant for them to consider the agenda of Finance Committee and to be thoroughly apprised of the financial position for the year 2000.

**The Speaker:** I shall now put the question on Government Motion No. 3. Those in favour please say Aye. Those against No.

**AYES and one audible NO (by Dr. Frank McField.)**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it. The motion is passed.

**AGREED: GOVERNMENT MOTION NO. 3 PASSED.**

**The Speaker:** Before I call for a motion for the adjournment of this honourable House, I would like to express on behalf of the Chair and honourable Members appreciation to the public gallery for their kind attention and for the good behaviour we have seen here this morning. We all realise that this is a very historic occasion, and a very emotional occasion, and I do thank you for your indulgence with the Chair and the behaviour we have seen here.

I will now ask the Honourable First Official Member if he would move the adjournment of this Honourable House.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Hon. James M. Ryan:** Thank you. I beg to move that this honourable House do now adjourn sine die.

**The Speaker:** I shall put the question that this honourable House do now adjourn sine die.

It is usually customary that honourable Members would wish to say a few words prior to adjournment.

The Third Elected Member for George Town.

**Dr. Frank McField:** Mr. Speaker, I am not going to miss the opportunity to sort of say a few words and to attempt to create the atmosphere in which the rest of the Members might be able to continue to give their appreciation for their positions at this moment.

The reason why I am doing that is because I am of the opinion that we all need to work together here; but it is important that when we say that we work together we realise that we are not here all to do the same thing. An orchestra works together, but persons do not play the same instruments. We are like an orchestra in that we all work together to harmonise and to play a particular tune or song, but we all have our roles to play.

The role, Mr. Speaker, that I believe I have been elected to play is a role that I think will assist in bringing reason and also transparency. Now that I am on this side, perhaps I will be the person who will continuously insist that there be light—transparent light.

Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful to the people of these islands for having returned me to the Legislative Assembly for a second term. I am very grateful to my wife, to my mother, and to all of my friends and supporters. I am especially thankful to the people of George Town, in the central district of George Town, who voted for me in a convincing manner. I was able to increase my votes by 35%, even after starting what persons referred to as a labour union in the country that would probably do more harm than good.

I believe that it is time that we understand that government is not a business. And because government is not a business it cannot be run as a business. Because it cannot be run as a business, that means that business

people feel that they therefore have to stand behind the scenes and begin to dictate to politicians how they should conduct their business.

I believe it is time that persons who want to influence Members of the Legislative Assembly become more open. Therefore, I believe that the best way for this to be done is for the Cayman Islands to have the good sense to start a party system in our country. A lot of us believe that will lead to more harm than good, but all we have to do is just think about the course of the last few days to understand that a little bit more reason must be entered into the political process and political culture of our country.

We have to play on the political stage with passion because politics has to do with passion. How can you convince somebody that you believe in something if you have no passion? When the electoral process is finished that passion should be shoved more to the side and more reason should come to prevail.

I think it is important, therefore, now we have opened the eyes and gotten the interest of a lot of our people, that we continue to involve them not just every four years but every day, every week, every month with the political process. That is what I have tried to do with my *Public Eye* show and that is what I will continue to do.

I am a fulltime Member of the Legislative Assembly, and I believe that the people will get worth for the money that they spend on me. I will work for them. I will not go against my pledge and my promises.

I feel, Mr. Speaker, that I deserve to be on that side. But that is beside the point. The drama has unfolded and I have to make the best use of the side that I am on. So, I will do whatever I can to work with Members of Government. I believe we started on that particular platform this morning when they already came in here to give the Deputy Speakership to a young junior Member from West Bay who has no experience in the House whatsoever. The mere fact that they were willing to make a decision not to do that and to listen to what we had to say means that they are open. I hope that the process will continue to be that way so that we on the Backbench—at least, those of us on the Backbench who clearly must distinguish ourselves from those who formed a Government yesterday—will be able to have an input. I think that will be healthy and helpful to the country.

Mr. Speaker, I am a little bit concerned that the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee comes from what we consider to be the Government Bench. It is very important, if we are going to talk about transparency, when the Government comes with its Minute to the Public Accounts Committee, that they actually have a colleague that will be the Chairman. I believe that is a mistake that I must bring to their attention at this particular [point].

We do not want to stack the deck in any way. If we are going to have transparency we cannot have too much of this friend/friend thing. We have to work together, but if

gether, but if we get too much of the friend/friend thing then we will be losing that whole concept of accountability and scrutiny.

I am not going to be long because I know people are tired, but I want it to be known that I am willing to work with the Government. But I am not going to create excuses when they make mistakes. They have to be alert because I am very alert. I am fulltime. I think all the time about this process and about this system. This is where my life is. This is what I have given my life to, and thank God I have been able to have the opportunity to do so.

I welcome all the new Members and may God bless the new Government and the Cayman Islands.

**The Speaker:** The floor is open for debate. Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Second Elected Member for George Town.

**Mr. Alden M. McLaughlin, Jr:** I rise to publicly acknowledge my heartfelt thanks to the electorate of George Town for their tremendous support of me at the polls last week.

Last Thursday night, when I began to realise the tremendous responsibility that the electorate of George Town had placed on me, and the tremendous confidence that they had in me, I was completely overwhelmed. As I said, it is a tremendous responsibility, but it is one I am prepared to discharge with everything that is within me.

Mr. Speaker, over the course of the days following the election, that responsibility has been particularly grave. The task of forming an Executive Council following any general elections is always a difficult one, but with no system of party politics in place—and this time around not even loose national groupings—the task has been formidable. I lead a fairly stressful existence, but I can truthfully say that I have never in my life gone through a process that was so stressful.

There are only five seats in Executive Council, and when nine Members of this honourable House wish those five seats there are bound to be those who are disappointed. There is only one position of Leader of Government Business, and when five of the honourable Members of this House want that seat, again, there are those who are going to be disappointed.

Over the past five days, we have all been involved in more negotiations than I care to talk about. There have been documents signed and documents destroyed; and while many stories have been told, the reality is that seven members do not a government make. A government of eight is a government for about a day. It takes at least nine members of this honourable House to put together a government that is effective and can work together and deal with the affairs of this country without worrying every moment that a member is going to defect.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to tell the Members of the House and the people of this country that I have been through every possible combination of Executive

Council. Given the circumstances and the personal demands of the individuals involved, I am satisfied that there was no other composition of Executive Council possible in those circumstances. I will say that if it were up to me to personally choose the Executive Council that would lead this country for the next four years, the composition would be a bit different. But, I, like all other Members of this House, have but one vote—no more and no less.

What must be clearly understood by all the electorate is that we, the fifteen of us, had an obligation to form a government. Over the course of these very stressful negotiations, the First Elected Member for George Town and I have been the subject of verbal abuse and threats. While I hold no malice or ill-will against any Member of this House, I wish to make it plain from the start of my term that no amount of intimidation, threats, or name calling will ever influence the way I decide what is in the best interest of this country. I will do my duty and be blessed, or do my duty and be damned; but I will do my duty.

The process of electing Executive Council under the current system is a terribly divisive one. And it is understandable that feelings will run high. But that process is now complete, and it is time to heal the wounds which have been opened and to get on with the business of governing this country.

There is much to be done, and the mandate we all have is one that requires us to move swiftly to address the many areas of national concern that have been neglected over the past years. The pressing immigration issue, the OECD and FATF initiatives, the upcoming constitutional review, the White Paper issues, government finances, the concern about the rising cost of living—all of these demand our united and immediate attention. We must put our personal differences behind us and do what we have all been elected to do. This country deserves—and needs—the best that each of us can give.

As Dr. McField said a bit earlier, there is a role for all of us, whether we support the present Government or not. Constructive Opposition is one of the hallmarks of a true democracy.

The mandate we have is one which requires us to help usher in a new era and a new style of governance. We must all work hard to seek to achieve the accountability and transparency that we have all campaigned on, and we must do our very best to dismantle the shroud of secrecy under which the affairs of Government have been conducted for far too long.

I know that we cannot all agree on everything, but I urge all Members of this honourable House to do their best to work together over the upcoming four years. There is too much to be done and too much at stake for us to do otherwise. Whatever we may feel now, let us not forget why we are here and the tremendous responsibility each of us shares to make this country a better place for all. I know that not everyone is happy. But I say to the people of this country, this is your Government for the next four years, please give it a chance.



To my fellow legislators, I ask that in all we do over the course of the next four years that we be careful with our criticism and liberal with our praise; that we seek to build up and not to destroy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The floor is open to debate. Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Elected Member for East End.

**Mr. V. Arden McLean:** Honourable Members, staff of the Legislative Assembly, family, guests, supporters, friends, all, I stand before you today on this very auspicious occasion humbled by the experience of having been elected by the people of East End, the fifth electoral district, to represent them for the next four years.

First, I would like to thank my parents, my two sons and the remainder of my family and my girlfriend who are all here today with me, for their patience and support particularly over the last six months.

Next, I thank the people of East End for affording me such a privilege. I am honoured to have been chosen and given the opportunity to represent them. To my committee I extend my sincere appreciation for its unwavering and continued support.

Whilst my acceptance speech may be a short one, it should not be interpreted as an inability to deliver as much as will be needed in the many years ahead of me. Today marks the beginning of my political career, which had as its genesis my personal commitment to honesty, integrity and justice for all—a commitment that I maintained throughout my campaign and now bring to this honourable House.

Over the years I have observed the erosion of dignity and respect in the conduct of Members within this Chamber. I intend to conduct myself in a manner that befits what is expected of any citizen of these islands afforded the honour of serving in the capacity of a Member in the Legislative Assembly. The political, social, and economic fabric of these islands has been painstakingly woven by the hard work of our ancestors and astute politicians. By progressively establishing and nurturing the core values of our heritage, the groundwork for our existence and success, was laid.

Mr. Speaker, as beneficiaries of these achievements it is imperative that we instill these fundamentals in successive generations. I therefore find it incumbent upon me to challenge my colleagues to strive to uphold the high standards of decency in the interest of the people who elected us. And, in anticipation of a challenging term, I expect to work tirelessly with all Members of the Legislative Assembly in the best interest of these beloved islands.

In the same vein, I will be equally vigilant and unrelenting in my scrutiny of good governance at all levels. It is not my intention to oppose for the sake of opposition, nor will I support frivolous and untenable positions. My mission here is specifically to represent the people of East End and generally to safeguard the wellbeing and success of the Cayman Islands.

As I reflect on my success at the polls, I wish to pay tribute to the impressive showing and support of the younger generation of Caymanians. My hope is that they will continue to actively participate in the political process at all levels and one day reap success from such involvement.

Now that the campaign is over, the country has spoken and the Government has been formed. We must put the bickering behind us and get down to the serious business of addressing the many complex issues that face this country. We, as legislators, must tackle these issues together in the interest of the people who elected us. While I may have been over the last five days a little disappointed at times, that is over now too. And, as a newcomer to these Chambers, I give you my undertaking that I will support you in your Chair and I will at all times conduct myself with respect to the Chair and to other honourable Members in these Chambers.

In closing, may the strength of God pilot us; may the wisdom of God instruct us, and may the way of God direct us. May internal power be our support and may internal wisdom scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Does any other Member wish to speak?

The First Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

**Mrs. Julianna Y. O'Connor-Connolly:** Mr. Speaker, it is all in the attitude. Being consciously and actively in charge of a positive attitude takes a lot of practice. But every time we succeed in changing a bad attitude to a favourable one, I believe we can say that we have succeeded.

My parents told me that I could do and I could be anything and everything I wanted to be; and I believed them. As a result, here I am today a product of their integrity, loyalty, honesty and commitment with a sensitivity to the needs of all of the people and not some of the people, and I thank God for such an upbringing. It is with pride and humility that I take my seat in this honourable House here again today, and I also wish to say that I am indeed extremely grateful to all of my supporters on Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, as well as those on Grand Cayman.

I am also grateful to those who did not support me and would wish to publicly state that I am their representative regardless of that fact, and I will do all that is within me to ensure that their needs are met as well.

You can rest assured Cayman Brackers and Little Caymanians that your voice will be heard for another four years in this honourable House. The fact that we did not take a seat on Executive Council gives me no fear, because I am a firm believer that we are all Caymanians and we are here for one purpose but to ensure that the best interest of this country is taken as a paramount consideration at all material times. It is that hope and that faith that gives me a positive catalyst to continue here yet today.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to thank the many persons who gave their colossal support from the island of Grand Cayman, and I take much solace in that. I wish to thank also Almighty God, Jehovah-Jireh, my supporter and provider, in whom I am absolutely confident that he will continue to provide me with the requisite wisdom, knowledge and understanding to rise above the circumstances and begin immediately to work together with all and sundry for the betterment of these my beloved Cayman Islands, and on behalf of the people to steer our wonderful islands along the sea of prosperity, unity, love, and harmony.

I wish to thank my good chairman, my immediate family and my helper who together greatly assisted in my being here this afternoon.

I wish to thank my colleague, the Second Elected Member for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, for his unwavering support, in particular during this past six tiring and stressful days. And, I look forward to working with him together as a unit representing Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, and, in a wider perspective, the Cayman Islands on a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to work with all honourable Members in this House provided that whenever we work it's always in the best interest of all six electoral districts. I trust that will be what transpires over the next four years.

I also wish at this time to publicly welcome you back in the halls of this honourable Chamber. I look forward to working with you not just for a temporary period but wish you, as I stand here, God's richest blessing, improved health, and I wish to see you in that honourable Chair for the duration of the next four years and beyond should you wish to continue.

I believe that during the past four years, Cayman Brac has been in an envious position having the good First Official Member sitting in the capacity that he has, the [Third Official Member] in his capacity as Financial Secretary, and you in the Chair with me in the House. It is even more heartening to see the same configuration assembled here today, but with an additional colleague from Cayman Brac, and [the Second Elected Member] for Bodden Town who had been in the Brac for eight years.

With Almighty God on our side, I trust that the Brac will be in the best position possible as well as Little Cayman.

I thank all honourable Members, and I should also wish in closing to welcome all new Members. It is good to see that the youth is represented here. We have a good rounded balance and I look forward to a good Parliament for the next four years. May it please you, and I sincerely thank you sir.

**The Speaker:** Does any other Member wish to speak?  
The Second Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**Mr. Gilbert A. McLean:** First of all, let me say it is an honour bestowed upon me that I am once again an elected Member of the Cayman Islands Legislature.

I would like to also welcome you back here today as Speaker. Indeed you were the Speaker when I last served in the Legislative Assembly.

I wish to thank the people of Bodden Town most sincerely, who voted for me and returned me as one of the three members for that district. For those who did not support me, I am also one of their representatives and I give my full undertaking that I will do all that I possibly can to represent them in the next four years, also all of the districts of these islands, indeed the whole Cayman Islands.

We are at a very crucial time in our history—largely I believe affected by external forces to which we must find an internal response. And that will lie not solely with the Executive Council, but with the involvement of all of the Elected Members in this House. I trust that both the Members from this side of the House and the Government side of the House will see the wisdom in working as closely as possibly together in coming up with solutions and solving the many challenges that face us.

I can also state that the Government may expect that I will support any matters they bring to this House which are clearly in the best interest of this country. I will scrutinise all matters that come here, and I most surely will oppose those I believe are not in the best interest—even if I should find myself doing that as a single person, as I have done in the past.

There are many things that need to be done in the district which I represent, and I have had the opportunity of sharing a manifesto with one other representative who has been returned to the Executive Council. I can assure the Member that he has my support in all efforts he shall bring with regard to the Bodden Town district and indeed the country.

I would like, however, if at all possible that we would start on parochial issues, some items for the district of Bodden Town.

Mr. Speaker, much could be said about a lot of things—including what I have witnessed in the past several days since the election. But I will not go into them. I believe I said what was necessary as I had the occasion to speak for a while on the television show the Third Elected Member for George Town had last night. There is one thing that is absolutely clear to me that I have been talking about for a long time—in fact, I would say a few decades. I have been stupidly labeled by self-serving people as radical, as wishing to tear down the government, of wishing to take the country into independence and all such ignorant suggestions that would not fit into the minds of sensible people. Unfortunately, it seems to be a majority that often does not fall within that category.

Mr. Speaker, we have to change the system of elections in this country if we are to move forward. We have to understand that within the British system of democracy within the Westminster system it is better for all and it serves a greater good and it gives the first and final participation to the electorate when we operate in a group or a party system. Not only do the voters have the opportunity of voting for those persons whom they wish to serve

to serve them, but it is no one's guess as to who will be the government once the process is over. Whoever has the majority, whoever leads in whichever group it's clear. And if nothing else has happened out of this election I do trust that some light has been shown in this particular direction.

There will be much more time to say a lot more in the future. For now, I would like to wish all Members of this Legislative Assembly the very best in the forthcoming year and I pledge my support to work with all members as far as is possible. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The floor is open to debate. Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Third Elected Member for West Bay.

**Capt. A. Eugene Ebanks:** I thank God for this opportunity, and I am proud to be here today as a result of the confidence of the people of West Bay who have elected me as one of their representatives.

Such assurance in my ability to work for you honestly and diligently is indeed reassuring, and I will endeavour to meet and exceed your expectations. I will continue to be honest and straightforward, and I welcome the full input of the electorate.

I would like to reiterate especially for those outside of my district my key concerns, which are accountability, beliefs, and caring.

At this important crossroad of our islands, we must examine where we are, how we are doing and the course we intend to take. And, considering all of this, I am mindful to be fully accountable to you, the people, not in four years' time, but every day, every week, every month of my service. I will work with the other elected and official representatives toward realising my personal reward, which is seeing happy, educated children, healthy and safe families and prosperous businesses and industries. However, my main accountability is and will remain to the children and grandchildren who are our future.

Behind this promise lies a strong core of beliefs—beliefs in an honest, open way of looking at life applied equally towards ethics in the running of the government ministries and departments, and in passing the laws. A caring attitude will come naturally if our beliefs and our traditional values dictate our position in the Legislative Assembly. Most importantly, our belief in God must remain as the cornerstone of our families and our country.

There is much to be done—conflicts in our laws and practices of government must be corrected and we must work to find the true balance of harmony and equality.

In closing I welcome the prayers, opinions and constructive input of everyone, and I look forward to leading our country in this new millennium with the help of our God. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The floor is open to debate. Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Honourable Minister.

**Hon. Roy Bodden:** Mr. Speaker, my presence here today on this momentous occasion is a testimony that God answers prayers. It is also a tribute to the wisdom and the good sense of the electorate of Bodden Town who have seen fit to return me four times now.

I have been overwhelmed by the symbolism and humbled by the increasing number of persons from all walks of life and of all ages, but especially the young people, who have invested their faith and their dreams in what I stand for.

Mr. Speaker, there is really nothing special about me. I came from a humble family. I grew up in Bodden Town, had a little intellectual ability upon which I was able to build, and went away to college and university and did well.

Many years ago, I set myself up as a leader and a role model for the youngsters. I started a soccer club that is still going on in Bodden Town from 1970, and I am still associated with youngsters who passed through that organisation.

Mr. Speaker, I am mindful of the fact that an awesome responsibility has been bestowed upon me. I was moved on Election Day by an incident in which, as I was walking from the polling station in Savannah to my car, a young man was walking to the polling station with his son, who was about five or six years of age. I cannot say that I knew the young man, although I may have seen his face somewhere before. I did not ask him his name because I did not want it to seem like I had taken him for granted. He told me, "I am going to vote for you. I am going to support you in anticipation that you become the Minister of Education because I have faith in you and I believe in you, and I will entrust you with the future of my young son."

Mr. Speaker, I am an emotional person. I stepped away from that young man [and] before I was able to insert the key into the lock of my automobile I had to compose myself because that was but one manifestation and there were several other persons who expect of me a great performance.

I am ready. I am prepared, and I am willing. I have thought about it. I have prayed about it. I have mediated and I have been encouraged by many. I thank God that the people of Bodden Town had the good sense to place such faith in me and I shall endeavour by God's will not to let them down.

Mr. Speaker, over the past five days I have been moved by certain experiences and I have cause to rethink my philosophy, particularly as it relates to friendship, loyalties and allegiance. I believe that this business that we are in, the way we conduct politics and the way we elect governments here is probably a most divisive and destructive methodology, and that we should work to change it. If we don't work to change it we run the risk of destroying the very country that we are about to build. It seems that at certain times, we (and I don't exclude myself) are willing to jettison longstanding relationships, friendships, loyalties and allegiances in our pursuit of political position and dominance.

I have always been a party man. I have said that from day one. Many people did not like me, and still don't like me because I said I like a structured organisation. I hope that arising out of this august body can come the will and the good sense to evolve and craft a system that will lead the future players towards some semblance of organisation so that when the people go to the polls they know what government they are likely to get and who the players are likely to be. I, Mr. Speaker, shall do my part, as I have always done, in promoting that.

Mr. Speaker, today we stand on the threshold of a historic moment in these islands and this Government and this Parliament are bestowed with an awesome responsibility—the responsibility of restoring faith, confidence, integrity and credibility into public affairs in the Cayman Islands. Every Member—Government and Backbench—will have to play an equally significant role, a role that necessitates co-operation, understanding and mutual respect and admiration for one another and for the roles that we play. Upon our shoulders lies the future of this country. Upon our shoulders lies the answer as to whether the good ship *Cayman* will continue drifting as it has been for the past years, or whether we will evolve some sense of direction in which not only the Members of the Legislative Assembly but the general public will have confidence and find the ability and the heart to support.

Mr. Speaker, looking around at the persons in here I know that we can do it. We only have to find the formula, the willingness and the ability to cooperate and to work together as an orchestra (since someone else has used that metaphor.)

Edmund Burke counselled his contemporaries in the eighteenth century, “If our patrimony is cast aside and if we insist on remaining smug and apathetic then we shall come to know servitude of mind and body.” If we cast aside our patrimony, if we begin to tear down, if we enter into adversarial and acrimonious debate, we will be mishandling the mandate we were given by the electorate a week ago (or in some cases less).

Mr. Speaker, this is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It is incumbent upon each honourable Member of this Assembly to take the mandate given to us by the electorate and move forward with that mandate. Here I must remind myself (because sometimes I am the greatest culprit), in spite of differences, in spite of egos, in spite of pride, in spite of hurt (and I am hurting), we must be willing to move on.

It is an obligation to which I shall continually remind myself for it is my objective in here in the next four years to perform to the best of my ability in such a way as to make my constituents proud; in such a way as to make my colleagues proud so that I may be seen as a good ambassador, a mentor, and a model for younger aspirants.

Finally, I believe that the spirit bodes well for such a performance, individually and collectively. I hope that in the time we have between now and the first meeting of the Assembly, sufficient reflection and mediation can be conducted by all of us that we can return here as colleagues, as brothers and sisters and friends, but, most

importantly, as responsible legislators endowed with the business of moving this country forward.

Mr. Speaker, our performance depends on developing a social conscience. It depends on developing camaraderie with one another. It depends on our principles and precepts that together we are going to maintain the highest moral and professional standards so that our country and the people who elected us can be proud.

I want to say especially to my constituents in Bodden Town, I realise the awesome responsibility that I have. I don't know what ministry or portfolios I will be given but it seems obvious from my training and experience that it would be education. I look forward to doing an excellent job. I especially look forward to working with my colleagues in Government. And I can pledge to those of my colleagues on the Backbench that I will be open, amendable, transparent, and I will be accountable and willing to gather caucuses, to be criticised and advised by them.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless this Parliament and bless the good ship, *Cayman*.

**The Speaker:** The floor is open to debate. Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Second Elected Member for West Bay.

**Mr. Rolston M. Anglin:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is certainly good to have you in the Chair. I certainly hope and pray that God will continue to keep you in good health and keep you with us.

I would like to promise you one thing, and that is that my behaviour will always be civil; or whenever necessary I will fight undyingly for the people of West Bay and the entire Cayman Islands.

I would first like to publicly thank our Lord and my personal Saviour, Jesus Christ. It was only through my intimate relationship with him that I was able to maintain the strength and dignity expected by the people of West Bay throughout this trying campaign. It was one of the dirtiest I have ever seen, which was a bit surprising considering the high number of Christians that we had running.

I would like to share with the House (and this is something that I will pass to all my fellow legislators) some requirements by God. For those who are listening at home, it can be found in Deuteronomy 10: 12 and 13, . . . fear God, walk in the way of God, love the LORD with all your heart, serve the LORD God with all your heart and soul. Keep the LORD'S commandments for your own good.

After listening to most of our speakers I think everyone thus far has acknowledged the need for the strengthening and the wisdom received by serving God.

I would also like to publicly thank our campaign committee. I believe that they were the best ever assembled in the history of these islands. It was a classic case of teamwork and obviously they were all successive because as we have four members all sitting here. I will be forever indebted to all of them.

I would like to say that I humbly accept my seat in this honourable House. To all my supporters I would like to publicly thank them for sending an entire team into George Town. I would like to take this time to say a special thanks to Mr. Patrick Schmidt and Mr. Ernie Rivers, who both nominated me. To all my non-supporters I would like to personally extend an olive branch in friendship. Let us remember that it is with all your prayers and support that we can move this country forward in a positive and meaningful manner.

As a member of the Government's Backbench, I look forward to working with them—to modernise our education and immigration systems so that they work best for the Caymanians of this country; to ensuring the tourism product is resuscitated; to reduce government waste and see through the reinvention of government so that Caymanians can get the most out of the civil service that they pay for; to really fight crime; to create a legacy of transparency that will lead to the openness and accountability that we also desire; and to ensure that our financial industry will continue to grow and benefit the people of these islands.

I am a positive person by nature, and it is my opinion that through education we can build bedrock for our society to lie on. We must ensure that the education system is enhanced in such a manner that our children are equipped to take up their rightful place in our society. However, I am also aware that drug abuse erodes any society. The scourge of drugs in this land must be eliminated and we must all rally to this cause.

To all those who will set themselves aside as Opposition Members on the Backbench, I would say to you that you must clearly distinguish yourselves between those seeking to do service to your country and those seeking power. The people of this country are watching. The people of this country are continually advancing in the political process. They will no longer sit back and accept politics as usual.

I would say that until we find a government that is abusing its power we should support them, critique them and be a part of the solution—not a part of the problem.

Mr. Speaker, in wrapping up, I would like to express my utmost confidence in the Executive Council that has been put together here today. Again, I would like to thank my constituents of West Bay. I would like to thank all the constituents across this island that voted and put us all into public office. I would like to be a part of a group of legislators who will ensure that public confidence is restored within the halls of this Legislative Assembly.

In closing, I would like to tell my fellow Caymanians that I only have one regret in my short life thus far, and that is, that I only have one life to give to my country.

**The Speaker:** The floor is open to debate. Does any other member wish to speak?

The Fourth Elected Member for West Bay.

**Mr. Cline Glidden, Jr.:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to first thank God and the good people of West Bay for selecting me along with the other members of the Better Balance Team as a representative for the next four years. I say to each of them a big thank you. And, I would also say to all of the people of West Bay that the election is now over so let us all unite, even those who did not support my team or me, and together we can build a better country.

I now represent all constituents not just those who have voted for me. My duty is to the people of these Cayman Islands as a whole and with God's help and their continuing support the trust that the populace of West Bay has placed in me will not be betrayed. I pledge myself to uphold and contribute to the continuation of good government through the high principles that have made the Cayman Islands a success today.

It is true that the results of the democratic process will always please some people and displease others. But I trust that the high values of this tried and tested system will always prevail and be respected in our land, where the power of the ballot and the results of an honest and fair election can place an action, the wishes of the majority of the people.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the Cayman Islands have once again spoken and the message is loud and clear. There are lessons to be learned from the year 2000 General Elections, but let it be clearly understood that this country will not bow to mob rule. Let it be clearly understood that these islands will remain stable and secure through the fair democratic system and heritage from our forefathers, and preserve and maintain through our continuing close colony link with the great United Kingdom.

This election has been a hard won battle and a victory for the future of the Cayman Islands—not for the ego of any individual. But, of course, this could only be realised through the combined efforts of all of us as we tackle with the determination, the pressing issues facing our developing country today. Our work is definitely cut out for us as we try to keep our country's economy strong and vibrant. And, as we endeavour to curb our growing crime, as we launch an all out attack on our drug problems and as we address our education and training problems as well as our immigration situation.

I look forward to working with you sir, as Speaker of this House, as well as working along with all other Elected and Official Members. In the weeks, months and years ahead as we set about the serious business of our country, as we move forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century some hard decisions will have to be taken—facts will have to be analysed and plans will have to be implemented. These will all demand true dedication and will test the very metal of which we are all made.

For this Legislative Assembly to democratically function, there must be reasonable communication between Members, and this must be mutual. I respect the fundamental rights of the people of the Cayman Islands and I will ensure that such rights as the freedom of speech are preserved not only in this Chamber but also in the islands

in the islands generally.

Since I am one of the freshmen elected to this very prestigious position of the people's representative, I would like to say very humbly and sincerely that I expect help and guidance from anyone and everyone who can offer it. I would like to succeed, but, being the person that I am, I will always remain humble. I will try to conduct myself with piety, decorum, and good manners which will make my people proud to have me as their representative.

I would especially like to thank my wife and my parents who both happen to be here, and the rest of my family and also the very hardworking Better Balance Committee who worked so very hard during the election campaign. I said it from the beginning that the difference between our team and the other teams and the other candidates was the strength of our committee. The sweeping success of our team has proved that point beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Today, I begin my term of representation with great humility and with a sincere dedication to proper representation for Caymanians and to the betterment of life in the Cayman Islands and the district of West Bay, as well as the real desire to see the country progress in a positive and balanced manner.

So, there is much to do and today the work begins. I do not mistrust the future and I do not fear what is ahead, for our problems are large but our hearts are larger. Our challenges are great but our will is greater. If our flaws are endless then God's love is truly boundless.

So, my fellow Caymanians, at the edge of the New Millennium let us begin with energy and hope, with faith and discipline, and let us work until our work is done. As the Scripture says, "And let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

So, today I say to all Caymanians that with their support and the support of the Good Lord together we can achieve a better balance for a better country which will give us a brighter future for all of us and our children and grandchildren. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The floor is open to debate.

The Third Elected Member for Bodden Town.

**Mr. Anthony S. Eden:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is with great humility and pride that I stand here this afternoon. First of all, I would like to thank Eternal God for giving me the strength and the power to come here—my family, my chairman Sandra, and my constituents of Bodden Town who have given me the opportunity to go into a third term in this honourable House.

Over the past eight years I have had tremendous experience as I have sat on the Backbench for awhile, I have also sat on the Government bench. I would like to openly take this opportunity to thank all of those people that I worked with while on the Government bench. We had an excellent working relationship, and I will tell one of those ministers over there that he or she will be very lucky to be inheriting some of the portfolios and departments that I had the special opportunity to work with.

As I have said to some ministers already, if there is any way that I can assist, I am prepared for the responsibilities that I had. I don't think they really need a lot of assistance, but if there is anything that I can do to help I am prepared to. Working with Government was a great maturing opportunity for me. I look across and see the three Official Members, extremely dedicated people. You have a lot of resources there to tap into, and also the senior civil servants, and I encourage you to do that.

We live in the greatest country in the world. There will be many trying times ahead of us, with some of the things that we have all heard reported on in the news lately. We have all professed our belief in God and our Christian principles. These will be tried over the next short period of time and ultimately over four years. If we stick together as Caymanians, we can overcome many, many of these problems. We must put aside petty politics for the good of the country.

And I was very pleased as I listened to some (as I termed myself when I came first) freshman politicians. I was very impressed with their delivery as they made their maiden speech. I think these islands have some good futures to look forward to. For my time as a Government Minister, I want to thank both sides of the House. It has practically flip-flopped since that except for the newcomers.

We, as a Legislative Assembly over the last six years, have brought the provision of health care facilities to the highest standard in the entire Caribbean. It was a pleasure to lead that charge with the support that you all gave. I plan to give you the continued support that these islands will need as we go forward.

Mr. Speaker, I would like also to welcome you back. It is good to see you in such fine health and with the help of God you will continue in this area.

There will be some significant situations we have to deal with—none less than the problems of drug abuse, prevention and rehabilitation. A lot of groundwork was set there, supported by most Members. This is one area that has the ability to bring these islands down quicker than anything else, so whatever we need to do to address this as quickly as possible, whatever resources, we need to. Also the social fabric to help our people, especially those in the area that need housing. I honestly feel that many of the problems we see emanating is because of insufficient supply of proper housing especially in the low cost area.

Finally, in closing I would urge us all to work together for the betterment of these islands. We have the ability by working together to keep Cayman focused. And if we work together we can do that. May God bless us all.

**The Speaker:** The floor is open to debate. Does any other Member wish to speak?

The honourable Minister.

**Hon. Edna M. Moyle:** Mr. Speaker, I too join with my other colleagues who have welcomed you back to this Chamber. When the House was dissolved back in Sep-

tember we accepted your retirement, but we are very pleased that you have accepted to return to be amongst us.

I would first of all like to congratulate all Members in this Chamber on their successful election to be returned as representatives of their districts. I now call on all Members of this Legislative Assembly, let us have a national healing for the future of these islands. I am quite well assured that there is not one Member in this Legislative Assembly that does not have the betterment of the people of these islands and a brighter future for the Cayman Islands at heart. So, Mr. Speaker, I call upon all Members, let us now join hands. We all campaigned to bring about a better Cayman Islands. So, let us join hands and work for the future of these islands.

First of all, I would like to thank God for giving me the courage to fight one of the nastiest campaigns in the district of North Side to bring me out successful as the representative of the district of North Side.

I would like to thank the people of the district of North Side for placing their confidence in me once again to be their representative for the next four years.

I thank my colleagues who have had the confidence in me this morning to bring about that I am now a Minister of Executive Council. I say to those colleagues who did not vote for me, I hold no ill will toward you. I would like to say that I take my responsibility as a Minister of Executive Council very seriously indeed, and I will serve the people of these islands as I have done in all my duties prior to coming into this Parliament and working elsewhere with dignity, honesty, and integrity.

I too was raised by a family in these islands and those virtues were put upon us when they were raising us. My Dad always told me, never tell a lie because you must continue to lie to be able to cover up the first lie. So I do not lie. This is one of my pluses, as I have heard many of those over the last couple of days.

The Government has been formed, and it is now time to get on with the business of these islands. These islands are faced with many serious issues, which will take all representatives in this Chamber to bring about solutions to.

Mr. Speaker, I am committed to transparency, which is a very popular word this morning. And, I will always be committed to transparency, accountability and openness in government. As a Minister of Executive Council I would like to ensure the Members of this House that I am prepared to work with you, and I ask that you give me the same in return. Today I assure you that this Minister will not be a parochial Minister representing only the district of North Side. I have been placed here to represent all people in these islands and I will carry out those duties to the best of my ability.

I would like to thank my committee who stood behind me during this election campaign. I would particularly like to thank my family who stood strong behind me and were there whenever they were needed.

I would also like to thank all people of the Cayman Islands, from all three islands, that called to congratulate me on being re-elected in the district of North Side. And,

to the people of the Cayman Islands, I say to you that your problems will be my problems and I will continue to work to find solutions to the problems that face the people of these islands. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The floor is open to debate. Does any other member wish to speak?

The First Elected Member of Executive Council.

**Hon. Linford A. Pierson:** Mr. Speaker, it is now 2.20 p.m. and many of my colleagues and friends here have not been to lunch yet, so I will make my contribution rather brief.

First of all, I wish to thank Almighty God for His guidance and protection over me during these past few weeks, and indeed over the whole process of my election campaign. My sincere thanks to my committee, without whom would I have been able to accomplish anything. I want to particularly mention my efficient and hardworking chairman, Mr. Donny Smith, for all the hard work he did at all hours of the night. And, I want to thank his good wife for allowing him to sacrifice so much time.

My thanks also to my dear wife and my family for all of their support.

I heard a previous speaker mention the level of stress that he had. I believe that I can give a new meaning to stress, because after going through the counting process I had to go to the beauty salon to get a new pair of nails—I chewed them all off! But the campaign is now behind us and I would like for us to put all the bitterness aside. I believe I am perhaps one of the oldest, if not the oldest Member on this side. I would like to show by my example in this House that we should all be working towards a common cause. I know there has been a lot of bitterness. There has been a lot of political rhetoric. But we must understand that 15 people have been elected to represent these islands—not just the five on Executive Council. The job of the Members on the Backbench who will call themselves the Opposition is not only to just oppose for the sake of opposition but to put their heads and hearts together in the interest of these islands in providing the very best representation possible.

I want to thank my elected colleagues for the confidence they have shown in me today in electing me to Executive Council. This is my second time around on Executive Council, but I have not really felt this way before. Today has left me with a really warm feeling from the sort of support I got from my colleagues—the fourteen who voted for me. I will never forget the confidence you have shown me. For the other one that thought differently, I want to thank that individual also.

I want to particularly thank the people of George Town for electing me to my fourth term in the Legislative Assembly. It was a rough campaign. It was a tough campaign, and I am not sure that I want to go through that again. But I can promise you that for the next four years I will continue to give you the very best representation that I can possibly give. I want to promise my colleagues in this House that I will work with you whether you find yourself in the position of being in opposition to Government or a

ernment or a Backbench supporter. I would like to work with each one of you. You all have obligations to your constituents, and I want you to know that my door will always be open to any Member of this honourable House to work with you in accomplishing the goals that you have set for your constituents.

We must understand that while parochial politics is important, more important is the national interest of these islands. When I say these islands, I mean these islands including Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. We must do whatever we can to provide the very best representation to the three islands.

I certainly look forward to a productive four years ahead. I know that the time will be difficult. We have a number of internal initiatives facing us, but I feel that with the strength and continued guidance of God that we will overcome all of the hurdles that we have to face.

I also know that we have a number of major issues locally, and I feel that the first item on the agenda for the new Executive Council is to attempt to prioritise these many issues.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the time is flying and I will not continue to draw this out but only in closing to once again thank my committee, my family, and the George Town constituents for allowing me this opportunity. I promise you that I will do my very best to provide the very best representation that I can give. Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** The floor is open to debate. Does any other member wish to speak?

The honourable Minister.

**Hon. W. McKeever Bush:** I rise also to say thanks to Almighty God, my family and the members of my committee and indeed the good people of West Bay for electing me for the fifth time, entrusting me with helping to lead them in this new Executive. I am also grateful for the trust put in me by the nine Members of this Legislature.

Once again, the people of these islands have spoken—and very loud indeed. They have given everyone of us perhaps the greatest opportunity ever given to another person, that is, the opportunity to serve them. This is a great privilege. It carries with it an awesome responsibility. It means and demands nothing less than the giving of the whole self.

I have always been proud of my Caymanian people from whatever walk of life they have come, always in the vast majority they are able to distinguish between what is right and what is wrong, to distinguish between real truth and real honesty.

We live in a wonderful country. I am proud of our democratic process in a time of strained nerves, a time of accusation and a time of attack upon family. We carried out our democratic responsibility in a manner that still makes me proud, which so far the international world cannot comment on in a negative way. Mr. Speaker, this is important to me.

We are still the fifth largest international business centre in the world. All of us, Government and Opposition, and those who lost, must remember that we are being watched minute by minute, day by day.

The finance business and the tourism industry are still our major means of making a living. Those industries are fickle—the first sign of problems, the first sign of mob rule, the first threat of political instability they will run to a better climate. Let no one in this House or elsewhere think that it cannot happen.

Mr. Speaker, one of the prime causes for political instability is internal bickering and a raw quest for power. Bickering is not new. I have been elected five times and every time we come we row because that is famous amongst us. But I have never seen anything like what went on in this last election. But it is true to say that we have always been able to put aside hard feelings and work for the good of these islands. That is what we must do.

Genuine opposition is healthy. However, when it gets to the point where hate is evident, then it will do our people no good. As I said, this is the fifth election I have won consecutively. I ran in 1980. I was only 25 years old. The new Minister (Mr. Roy Bodden, the First Elected Member for Bodden Town) and I ran on a ticket consisting of one faction of the old guard. Those were learning days. We lost!

They told us that we had just come here and they were the old guards and they going to, what they call, 'run things'. And so they did! We lost, and that was that. We accepted it. But both he and I went on to continue to work in our community. The people saw good in us and they elected us and we have been elected ever since. We did not get elected by talk nor hate. We worked and we worked.

That is all I know how to do—work genuinely, work hard and serve the needs of my people. I have never expected that all people will like me, but I do believe that I have something to offer. I won't stand here and be a hypocrite—I never was and I never will be. What I heard over the last few days and what I heard on television last night and saw and witnessed, there was no real cause for that. None whatsoever! I hope that they have gotten it out of their system and I hope that it made them feel good. All I know to do is to work and that is what I have come here for. That is what I have done in the past and that is what I will do in the future.

The fact that we got elected with four members is not new for me, Mr. Speaker. I have been successful in the past by electing teams because that is the way of the West Bay people—but only if they trust you, only if they love you and only if you have done good in the past will they do that. So, it was not new for me to bring three other members with me to this Legislative Assembly. I have been doing that for several years.

And, no one should think that they are weak because I know that they are strong. Termed "the West Bay Contingent" over the past couple of days, and made much of on the television show the other night, I am indeed proud of my elected colleagues of West Bay. I have the greatest



have the greatest confidence in them. All three of them have been, and are, hard workers. They are experienced in the world of business. They are professionals. And I would like to say that the two youngest ones are good young men for this country.

The Second Elected Member for West Bay is well equipped to serve on or to chair any committee of this honourable House, especially the Public Accounts Committee since he is a true certified public accountant. Figures, scrutiny, and investigation would not be new to him for he has worked in New York and Atlanta and here with big firms. That is his profession.

While the Fourth Elected Member [for West Bay] is young, he is well equipped. He has been very successful in all the things he has been involved in. It is obvious the people of West Bay thought so too.

So, I am not going to have anyone here attempt to besmirch their profession or their ability. Those people who say they want peace they should really try to accomplish peace.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the First Elected Member of Executive Council talked about getting new nails, well I needed them for a long time. But I tell you, the last five days I would never want to witness again. It has not been easy to get here because there was every attempt to keep me out of here. It was obvious until last night. They gave various reasons. That is the democratic right but I do not believe that last night was a right. The right stopped when people refused to form a coalition with them. Nothing else! The next step would be here and the Members of this honourable House came and they spoke. That is the democratic process.

I too will work for a new system because this one is not working in that you cannot have this sort of showdown every time we come to choose a government. There must be a system in place where people know beforehand or have some idea beforehand who is likely to be their next government and who will be the next leader. I have espoused that from day one. All of my political life I have espoused that because I had a team every time I ran an election. That is as close to a political party as it could ever be. Therefore, it would be my intention to talk to my constituents about such organisation. I believe we need that. I believe that can help us and I believe that it should be instituted.

The issues to address are numerous. The problems are great. I hope to work hard with this Council. I made no bones about where I would like to work. It is a challenge. The tourism industry, sports and culture are some of the subjects that I would like to manage. I believe that I have that ability.

You know, while they have criticised me for everything under the sun, you never heard them criticise me for the things I accomplished—nor did they praise me. But I have a good track record because I work, and when I need to talk I do that. So, on the broader scheme of things I believe we need to work fast and urgently on an immigration policy that seeks to satisfy our people both in the protection of their businesses and safeguarding these islands for the future; but a policy that also contains com-

contains common sense, humane and fair to those who live and work here amongst us. We cannot allow the immigration policy to be put on the backburner or else we will find in five or ten years a much worse situation than we have today—unmanageable, with people worried. Mr. Speaker, we have to move on that and fast.

Some of our people might not like some of the decisions. I have said in the past you cannot want to treat people right—people that live amongst us—and then tell them that they cannot safeguard their future. They have no security of tenure. We cannot preach about Christianity and do that. Besides that, the international world will not allow us anymore to do that. We know that. His Excellency the Governor made some very pertinent remarks this morning when he said that our country is not like the catboat gracefully sailing any longer, it is a big powered machine that needs direction.

The White Paper will be challenging. The cost of living is high. The cost of doing business is high. This is and must be a priority. Housing must be given a priority. The economy is down, some sectors worse than others. This is a priority. It is no use making accusations about people just to destroy them. The economy of this country has to continue because all the things that members want and preach and put in their manifestos they cannot get without money.

The day we run away investment, the day we continue to make investors feel uncomfortable, we lose the standard of living that we profess to have. If people believe that it cannot be worse just look around us and see. So, make all the accusations you want. It did not really help.

Certainly, tourism is one of the most important industries in the Cayman Islands today. I believe that we must re-establish the Cayman Islands as one of the premier destinations in the world and ensure that our tourism industry is sustainable for the long term to provide a better quality of life for this and future generations of the people of these islands. I have some immediate goals, which I will discuss with my colleagues and His Excellency the Governor.

Certainly in building for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century there must be the following of a plan for the short term and the medium term. As long as we can realistically plan for we need to do that.

Last, but certainly not least, we are going to have to put our heads together to come up with ways and means of finding revenue to supply, as I said a while ago, all the needs of the people. Perhaps this is one of the greatest challenges, for who can really deny our people the things—schools, roads, medical and recreational facilities—that they demand from us. There are many more challenges that lie ahead. It is our job to enlist the will of the people so that they understand what it is we are doing for them, and take them along with us. Yes, there will be challenging times ahead.

Again, I express my deepest gratitude for the confidence that the people of West Bay put in me, and to my colleagues for their trust with executive leadership. I will not let them down. As always, my door will always be

open. I intend to work for every district and leave no one out.

I ask the Opposition to be genuine. There is a tremendous amount of work to be done. We must now do it. Get on with it. As for me, "The woods are lonely, dark and deep, but I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep." I thank you, sir.

**The Speaker:** The floor is open to debate. Does any other honourable Member wish to speak?

The Honourable Third Official Member.

**Hon. George A. McCarthy:** This is the time when the Elected Members are saying thanks to their families and friends, and their supporters for the trust that has been vested in them bringing them into the hall of this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen three general elections since my appointment to the position of Financial Secretary in 1992. I must say what I am hearing here today in terms of the expressions of willingness to work together has been very encouraging. I have heard it in the past, and I have seen it in the past. It is very good that as we come to this point in time when we have so much ahead of us to accomplish to hear the spirit of camaraderie being expressed. Expressions of willingness to work together to ensure that the good ship *Cayman Islands* remains afloat with direction. It is very heartening.

I have been fortunate in being given the privilege to travel to many islands in the Caribbean, and countries in Europe to represent the people of the Cayman Islands. I have gone as part of delegations, and I remember particularly in my role as the Chairman of the Caribbean Financial Action Taskforce (CFATF) having to go to Japan to represent the member countries of the region. This has been a privilege afforded to me by the people of the Cayman Islands.

I will say this without any reservation or apology: We live in a wonderful country. We live amongst wonderful people. We are the beneficiaries of a wonderful heritage. A lot of us at this point in time are enjoying a very good life. Some of us may claim that it may not be so good but today we have health and strength. We have our families. We have friends.

And we look around us, we have wonderful children that are growing up and they are the future of the Cayman Islands. A lot of them are very energetic like I was in my teens. I relied on others to give me direction, and I am the product of such direction being given. It is up to us to rally and provide support, as we have heard expressed, I think by the Third Elected Member for West Bay, that he has got a commitment to the younger generations of these islands.

In Psalms 27:1, it says, "Unless the Lord guards the city, they that do so labour in vain." No single individual can take credit or believe that he or she can muster the wisdom in his or her own strength to do what is necessary for the good of that person—much less for the good of family and community. That cannot be done unless we are guided by God.

When we talk about our Christian beliefs, there is a general thinking that this is something that we should be very quiet about. But I will never be quiet about that! I have seen things in this country. I remember Hurricane Gilbert in 1989, whether it is a myth or a fact, this is believed. I was told that the eye of that hurricane split on approaching Grand Cayman, one of the three islands comprising the Cayman Islands, and it reformed itself after passing these islands. I was at the Fire Station and I saw the water on the runway and I am thankful to God that he is a God that is looking out for our interests.

The [Fourth] Elected Member for George Town mentioned that we have the international initiatives to focus on. The Honourable Attorney General and I recently returned from France. It was quite heartening to know when we were there . . . and we will have to give credit to the members that have been a part of the negotiating team and also the [Fourth] Elected Member for George Town, and the support of all honourable Members of this House and the community at large.

We were told by the gentleman who has now replaced the Chairperson of the OECD Caribbean Review Group that when Cayman's application was reviewed for the qualified intermediary status, they were very heartened to know that so much had been accomplished in these islands over the years. When the question was posed as to whether the Cayman Islands qualified for this status to be extended, whereby we have "Know Your Customer" requirements in place within our financial institutions, unequivocally they could only agree, yes.

It was heartening to see that we have now reached to a stage where. . . initially when we looked in terms of what these initiatives met, I must say at times we could have been very discouraged. But we put our hearts, minds, and hands together and we sought the guidance of Almighty God. These initiatives have provided an opportunity for the framework that is supporting the Cayman Islands' financial industry to come under scrutiny, not only for the benefit of us, but also for the international community. At this point in time all can agree that we run a well-regulated financial industry. But we do recognise that any good thing can always be improved upon.

We have seen that we have areas to address and these will be addressed with the support of the Government and all honourable Members of this Legislative Assembly. I am heartened and encouraged, and I feel very good to be a part of the Cayman Islands' community. I know that we have got strength and I know that strength comes from God. I do believe that once we keep our eyes and our hearts focused and attuned to His guidance and cooperate with each other we will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Mr. Speaker, we will have to contend with jealousy. We are the fifth largest financial centre, and we are a significant financial centre. As the Governor said this morning, we are not a catboat, we are a major vessel out there within the sphere of the international ocean. If we continue to work together with the resolve that we have

have shown so far, with the energies that have been expended and with the mindset to achieve success, it is quite likely that in our lifetime we will become number one.

Mr. Speaker, it is good to see you in the Chair once more. I just wish God's continued blessing on these islands and upon all Members of the Legislative Assembly. And, most importantly, let us not forget our heritage and let us always give thanks to Almighty God for guiding us. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The floor is open to debate. Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Honourable Second Official Member.

**Hon. David F. Ballantyne:** Thank you.

It seems that it is customary for the Official Members to say at least something on these occasions, and I don't intend to make any exception. You may wonder exactly what I am supposed to do here, so I will just explain briefly.

As Attorney General, I am principal legal adviser to the Government. But I am also a Member of the Legislative Assembly, in my opinion to facilitate the working of this House. I would like to say that within those confines I am happy to recommit to the Legislative Assembly of these islands not just my resources, but those of the team that I represent. We have some 24 lawyers working in the government legal service between the Law School, the Legal Department, Legislative Drafting and Law Revision.

I would like to offer you a brief you will be glad to know, a perspective on where we may be. It is now almost two years since I assumed the present position of Attorney General. And it is fair to say, as many people have said to me, that we certainly live in interesting times. They have been as choppy as I can imagine they might have been, and I really did not imagine they would be like that. I don't really want emphasise the nautical metaphors because I am the owner of a very small boat and not exactly a brilliant navigator. *[laughter]*

However, I wish to take the opportunity to congratulate all Elected Members who have been brought by their constituents to this House at this time and in this place. I realise there are difficulties within the system. But I would say to you that it is good that the system has produced a government. There are difficulties not too far away in that department on which I won't dwell in other countries or one particular country.

I wish also to congratulate those elected to Executive Council with whom the other Official Members and I will work closely and constantly in the interest of government.

I would also particularly like to welcome you, Mr. Speaker, and look forward to continued collaboration, if I may put it that way. There are considerable challenges both at home and abroad, as I understand. Some progress has been made in working through these initiatives

with a team effort among Members of the Legislative Assembly, and with the involvement of the private sector.

The laws, which are made here, should serve the interest of the Cayman Islands. Those within the legal portfolio aim to provide you with professional, objective, advice and support both to Government and the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to say that the events the Financial Secretary described owe some of their origin to legislation that was passed here in the middle of the year, because the United States' delegate indicated that the granting of qualified intermediary status reflected the laws that has been passed as a result of the response to the FATF exercise and also the engagement, the commitment, to the OECD process. So, on two fronts there is some evidence of some progress. I don't mean to sound complacent. These are difficult issues.

I have been called to serve here in my present capacity. I hope to continue to further the development of the Cayman Islands from perhaps what some people see as an offshore centre in order to confirm its position as a recognised established international business centre appropriately regulated to international standards.

It is my view (in concluding) that these standards are still evolving. And the Cayman Islands has a part to play in shaping that future with the intention of securing for itself an appropriate place in world markets. It seems to be that although this may be daunting this country has got the resources and the capacity to plot a suitable course towards that.

Although I found myself without wind in the middle of North Sound the other day on my small boat, I am pretty sure that I won't find any lack of wind or any lack of sailing skills in my colleagues here in the Cayman Islands! I thank you for your attention and I look forward to continued work together.

**The Speaker:** The Honourable First Official Member.

**Hon. James M. Ryan:** The principal of Mico Teacher Training College, the college I attended four years ago (I would like admit) often told his students that brevity dispatched the rapid thought. This afternoon, because of the lateness of the hour, I am going to let brevity dispatch the rapid thought. I will keep it brief.

Let me begin by welcoming you back to this hallowed Chamber. We were all saddened when you announced your retirement in September, but I am delighted to see you back in the Chair. And I could liken Cayman Brackers to Toyotas—they go, and go, and go! And that is exactly what you are doing. We are delighted to see you back and in such fine form.

I want at this juncture to congratulate all Elected Members on either their re-election, or for the first timers, their election to the legislature. Let me welcome you. I wish you all that is well and offer my full co-operation and assistance.

Let me also welcome the five Elected Members who have now become honourable Ministers of Executive Council. I want to pledge to you all my full support and that of the entire civil service. I also want you to know that the door to my office is always open, and any assistance that I can render, feel free to call on me.

I want to say to the people of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman in particular, I know you were probably disappointed that you have not gotten an elected Minister on Executive Council. But I pledge, as the First Official Member of Executive Council, to serve you to the best of my ability.

To my two elected colleagues from the Brac, I will shortly contact you and we will work together and I believe that there is much that still can be done.

Finally, I want to say to the election officials headed up by the Supervisor of Elections, Mr. Kearney Gomez, and to all the many election officials who pulled off what I consider a flawless general election, my warmest congratulations and a heartfelt thank you very much, for a job well done.

Again, I welcome you back and we look forward to seeing you here when we resume in the New Year. Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** The floor is open to debate. It appears that no other honourable Member wishes to speak.

I would like to thank honourable Members for the welcome back to this high seat you have given me today. I want to thank Almighty God for bestowing health on me that enables me to be here. I want to say that during my twenty years as an Elected Member, the last four I served in this capacity were the highlights of my life. I continue to have my dedication. It is somewhat a privilege to have been in this the Honourable Chair as an Elected Member for the last four years and I am very grateful to the honourable Members for appointing to this position today.

I pledge to you all that I will do everything within my power to follow the rules and procedure of Parliament to the very best of my ability. But at this time, I would like to ask for your cooperation. I have a responsibility that I shall exercise at all times, and your cooperation is very necessary. This is the third highest office in the land. There is nothing more important than the Legislative Assembly is, and I am proud to serve you. But I again ask for your co-operation.

I would like before closing to thank our former Deputy Speaker, who is now a Minister of Executive Council, for the able way she performed in the Chair in my absence, and for the advice she gave me during the previous four years.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Deputy Speaker, the Third Elected Member for George Town. I ask for his cooperation as the job is quite challenging at times.

I realise, as the First Elected Member of Executive Council said, most people have not had their lunch. So, at this time it is my privilege and pleasure to call upon the Honourable First Official Member to move the adjourn-

ment of this Honourable House sine die.

**Hon. James M. Ryan:** I again move the adjournment of this Honourable House sine die.

**The Speaker:** I shall now put the question. Those in favour please say Aye. Those against No.

**AYES.**

**The Speaker:** The Ayes have it. This honourable House stands adjourned sine die.

**AT 3.06 PM THE HOUSE STOOD ADJOURNED SINE DIE.**

