

## **PNP Executive condemns Shaw's abuse of his Office to harass political opponent**

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

In Jamaica's system of government, independent bodies such as the Auditor General and the Contractor General are mandated to investigate any irregularity in the operations or contracts of Government. Such offices, and indeed our entire civil service, are intentionally insulated (to varying degrees) from political control in order to avoid their direction for partisan political ends.

In a striking departure from this tradition and in a vulgar attempt to intimidate Peter Bunting, the Minister of Finance has ordered a report on "all transactions that took place between Dehring, Bunting and Golding and the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, as well as other government agencies, companies, and statutory bodies between 2000 and 2007." In its meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November, the PNP Executive condemned this corrupt abuse of the authority of the Minister of Finance and the waste of the resources of the public sector, for the sole purpose of harassing a political opponent.

In 2008, Audley Shaw had been Minister of Finance for more than eight months and never raised any concern regarding DB&G until, in Bunting's contribution to the Budget Debate, he drew attention to Shaw's statement, as then Opposition Spokesman on Finance in January 2007 in Parliament, when Shaw defended the activities of the so called alternative investment schemes such as Olint and Cash Plus. Shaw advocated that "...entrepreneurs of all types can co-exist and flourish, where they are welcomed and not constantly alienated, where they are allowed to take their risks and yield high profits or suffer the consequences of their high risk-taking propensities." Bunting pointed that it was not the "entrepreneurs" but their scammed victims who would suffer the consequences and further questioned whether Shaw felt any personal sense of responsibility for helping to legitimize these schemes. By the following week Shaw was drawing the red herring of a DB&G sweetheart deal across the trail, eventually precipitating a two year long investigation by the Contractor General.

The OCG's Report, issued in August 2010, found absolutely no evidence of any illegality, corruption, or nepotism and made no recommendation for any further investigation of DB&G. At the time, the G2K - the attack dogs of the JLP - were palpably disappointed and called for EVERY DB&G transaction to be investigated.

That Contractor General's Report was released months ago, yet Shaw issues this circular to once again coincide with Bunting's comment in Parliament about the JLP feting David Smith, a major donor to the JLP's 2007 campaign subsequently convicted of operating a fraudulent ponzi scheme. Minister Shaw has embarked on a fishing expedition to collect data for a smear campaign against Peter Bunting.

While the Executive is confident that absolutely nothing of substance can come out of this fishing expedition, it is equally sure that Shaw will either misunderstand or intentionally misrepresent every transaction. This effort is an attempt to smear Bunting and deter pursuit of the David Smith/Olint/JLP connections."

Cde Bunting is resolved to expose the connection between 1) the donations of David Smith/Olint, to the JLP's candidates and political campaign, and 2) the apparent

protection from action by relevant Jamaican authorities that Smith now enjoys. These donations were made from monies stolen from thousands of Jamaicans and they deserve to get justice from the Jamaican system.

Attached is a list of questions which Peter Bunting MP intends to ask the Prime Minister in Parliament on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

**Questions for the Hon. Prime Minister with respect to the illegal investment schemes operated by David Smith/Olint and related entities.**

1. Is the Prime Minister aware of the convictions of David Smith in the Turks and Caicos related to fraudulently operating an illegal investment scheme, specifically conspiracy to defraud and money laundering?
2. Is the Prime Minister aware of the indictment in the Florida Middle Court of David Smith on 27 counts related to the operation of this fraudulent investment scheme?
3. Given that David Smith/Olint commenced his operations in Jamaica and thousands of Jamaicans are victims, and that legal and other regulatory action was commenced against him by the Financial Services Commission during the previous administration, will the Prime Minister provide an update on the status of this matter with the various Jamaican authorities whether regulatory, investigative, or prosecutorial.
4. Will the Prime Minister explain the slow pace of Jamaican proceedings on this matter generally, and especially relative to the aforementioned two jurisdictions?
5. Will the Prime Minister confirm that David Smith attended a function of appreciation for contributors to the Jamaica Labour Party at Vale Royal held after the 2007 elections?
6. Will the Prime Minister confirm that current Cabinet Ministers travelled on an airplane leased by or otherwise under the control of David Smith/Olint/Olint TCI or their connections to the Turks and Caicos Islands and/or other destinations at various times and as recently as the first quarter of 2008?
7. If yes, would the Prime Minister identify those cabinet ministers?

**For further information;**

Dr. Omar Davies  
977-4428