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Over the past decade of the most distinguished service, Mr Ingraham had been described as "a remarkable man who sought to advance the country in changing the government," the Prime Minister assures him a

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MY TURN

NICKI KELLY

Hypocrites of The Bahamas unite

... Leader Perry Christie by FNM House Leader Algernon Allen, and simultaneously arranging to have his lengthy address broadcast on ZNS radio.

Like other conventional companies, Sun has benefited by the phenomenal performance, which have changed the way investors view the company. Bigger returns fast—like 100 percent.

As Sun chairman, Sol Kerzner, Phase II: "We have a responsibility to the island to provide acceptable service."

By going private Sun might have a different view of profits, but no agreement has been reached on a buy-back price for the shares.

Mr. Kerzner, who described Sun as the future of this country's tourist industry, said:

- The current labour environment is not conducive to the growth of a qualified staff.
- Proposals, which are not in the best interests of the country.
- The cost of doing business is too high.
- Failure of the government to provide adequate services to shareholders and investors.
- The high cost of doing business in the Bahamas, particularly in the case of resorts like Orlando.
- *The comparison between the Bahamas and other Caribbean Club resorts and

Home work

NEVER in all my born days have I seen such hypocrisy as was displayed by the FNM government—and especially the Prime Minister—following the death of Sir Randol Fawkes.

After subjecting this giant of a man to nearly a decade of the most humiliating treatment over his rightful claim to a pension, Mr Ingraham had the gall to stand in the House and eulogise Sir Randol as “a remarkable man—a visionary who attained national stature as he sought to advance the working men and women...whose pivotal role in changing the government in 1967 and service as a Minister of government assures him a prominent place in the history of the Bahamas.”

If the Prime Minister could say all this about Sir Randol after his death, why was he treated so shabbily during his lifetime? But the true measure of the man was that he was able to turn the tables, publicly embarrassing the government at every opportunity, until he was finally given his rightful due.

Persecuted and prosecuted, Sir Randol always put up a fight, but the long battle over his pension took its toll.

I firmly believe that Sir Randol's death was hastened by the stress with which he was forced to live for so many years. And no matter how much the Prime Minister and his government may seek to save their consciences with words of praise and state funerals, they can never expunge their callousness towards this fallen hero.

Hubert Ingraham was only 11 years old when Randol Fawkes was orchestrating the general strike of 1958, and just 20 when Labour leader Fawkes cast the deciding vote that allowed the Progressive Liberal Party to form the first black government in 1967.

It was Randol Fawkes' charismatic leadership that forged the labour movement into a formidable force, providing the grassroots support that ultimately brought the PLP to power. But I guess the Prime Minister was too young to understand or appreciate any of this, and apparently still doesn't.

In his tribute to the Father of Labour, the current Labour Minister, Dion Foulkes, called Sir Randol “a revolutionary and a visionary” who was not afraid to take on causes “even at the cost of great sacrifice to himself and his family.”

“He was prepared to pay the price...a lesson we need to learn today. Far too many of us look for the easy road and the expedient cause,” he said.

I find the Minister's sanctimonious comments rather funny, seeing that neither he nor his fellow MPs—barring perhaps one or two—have ever demonstrated any sclerosis of the spine when it comes to matters of principle. If they did, they would have seen to it that Sir Randol got his pension, instead of having to fight for it almost to his dying breath.

In the quarter century that I covered the House, first for The Tribune and later the international press, I saw a parade of politicians pass through its doors, but there was no-one like Sir Randol. He was an original, the like of which we will never see again.

A consummate actor and orator, he could hold the House enthralled even when castigating the government for its failings.

Unlike today's crop of politicians, who have to read speeches crafted by others because they cannot think on their feet, Sir Randol could discuss a subject lucidly and cogently, without reference to notes or prepared text.

His appearances in the House were always memorable, because they had the same effect on his peers as a horse fly—stinging.

Many people, including some of today's politicians, may not know that while it was Sir Randol who put the PLP and former Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling in power, it was also a No Confidence resolution, moved by Sir Randol three years later, that nearly cost Sir Lynden his position as Prime Minister. He survived the resolution by a slim margin of four votes.

It is perhaps because this mercurial man was never prepared to bow to the will of others, or be part of the political old-boy network, that his opponents tried to crush him in his latter years.

But those now riding the crest of the wave would do well to remember the case of the late Carlton Francis, and the cruel gibe levelled at this very ill man by former Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling, in whose Cabinet Mr. Francis once served.

As the old people like to say: “What goes around, comes around.”

What happened to broadcast rules?



MY TURN

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Open door policy

Strange as that little episode was, even stranger was Mr. Ingraham's claim that hardened criminals deported to the Bahamas from the U.S. were fueling the “dramatic rise” in crime in the Bahamas.

He said that almost 100 deportees had been sent back since June, 25 of whom had no Bahamian parentage or connection to the Bahamas.

If these fellas had no Bahamian roots, why in heaven's name were they allowed to enter the country, and who was responsible for that? Both I betcha it was the Ministry of National Security, led by that Minister Mayhem, Frank Watson.

If the U.S. followed protocol, it would have advised Foreign Affairs or National Security of the deportations. So why didn't National Security check on their backgrounds beforehand? Or is it that in typically slack fashion, nobody bothered until it was too late and the jail birds had landed?

If what the PM says is true, and there's no reason to doubt him, why know just who to REALLY blame for the sharp rise in crime.

Given Mr. Watson's observations about slack parents, delivered in the Budget debate, maybe what he needs is a dose of his own medicine. “It is my firm conviction,” he declared, “that there ought to be serious consequences against parents and guardians who don't take their supervisory responsibilities seriously.”

The same should go for Ministers who fall down on the job.

Cassandra told you so

I am intrigued by the Prime Minister's explanation as to why the government decided to revoke \$3 million in tax concessions granted to Sun International, because it confirmed exactly what I tried to point out two years ago when the government was busily spinning the tale of additional rooms and 2000 more workers, following construction of Phase II.

As I said at the time (My Turn-July 28, 1998) “while Phase II of Sun will add 1200 new rooms, Sun has at the same time eliminated 665 (Paradise Paradise and Holiday Inn). This means that the actual number of rooms on Paradise Island will increase by only 535 rooms.”

And since Sun had absorbed the staff working at the two defunct hotels, the number of workers needed to service the 535 additional rooms would be over 900 than 2000, I explained. (My Turn-August 4, 1998)

Nevertheless, Sun was granted substantial casino concessions based on a commitment to start construction by January, 1999, of a 565-room hotel to replace the Holiday Inn. When Sun couldn't meet the deadline, the government allowed an 18-month extension, providing an 800-room hotel with