

12th October, 1965.

TO: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
c/o Government House,  
Nassau N. P.,  
Bahamas.

Re: Representations from the Labour Party  
for a more democratic form of government  
in the Bahamas.

Before the Bahamas Government can enjoy the full fruits  
of internal self government the undermentioned basic needs  
must be met:

POLITICAL NEEDS

1. CESSATION of CONFLICT OF INTEREST in parliamentary duties  
by paying House Members and Cabinet Ministers and the  
setting up of specific guidelines as to parliamentary  
conduct in respect to their investments, business  
activities and their membership in non-parliamentary  
and commercial and business companies.
2. INTRODUCTION of SYMBOLS and COLOURS on all ballot papers  
for all and future elections to safeguard against open  
voting, bribery and false declarations of illiteracy.
3. NEXT GENERAL ELECTION should be supervised by a Commission  
from the United Nations.

ECONOMIC NEEDS

The theme: Rent control; Price Control; Interest Control.

4. TAXATION on all undeveloped land throughout the Colony.
5. NATIONALIZATION of the Liquor Industry and the earmarking  
of a certain proportion of the profits for public works  
and the establishment of a more enlightened system of  
education throughout the Bahamas.
6. GUARANTEED MARKET in Nassau and the Bahamas for all Out  
Island Farm Produce implemented by Government's sub-  
sidizing marketing scheme that would give the Out Island  
Farmer full protection against unfair competition from  
imported food.
7. THE CONVERSION OF THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK into a  
NATIONAL BANK capable of financing development pro-  
grammes, and controlling credit in accordance  
with Government's economic policy. The National  
Bank should perform the issuance of currency and do  
also general Banking and agency services.

SOCIAL NEEDS

8. THE RAISING of the School leaving age and a crash programme  
of education, at High School and University level, to  
qualify Bahamians for future positions of usefulness in their home-  
land.

9. ADEQUATE MEDICAL FACILITIES on all Out Islands in the place of political medical supplies.

TRADE UNIONS.

10. TRADE UNION AND INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION ACT, 1958: This Law should be repealed at the earliest moment and replaced by a more modern Act for the following reasons:

- (a) PART II Section 4(1): Under this Section a Labour Board of five (5) is provided but only one (1) of these five (5) persons on the Board is required to be a member of a registered trade union. More over the language of the Bill is not sufficiently clear to ensure that the one (1) person appointed to serve will be drawn as a representative of the Union. In the past only minions of Government are appointed.
- (b) Mr. Martin Pounder, the Chief Industrial Officer has, during the past seven (7) years, prohibited the formation of a Transport and General Workers Union (See letter MP/rt/36 dated 11th August, 1964.)
- (c) Unions resent his presence when a strike vote is taken inspite of the provisions of the Law.
- (d) SECTION (35 (4)) Unions should be free to select their own auditors from recognised institutions.
- (e) Union should have compulsory recognition of their organisation as government has now become a vassal of the Grand Bahama Port Authority Limited.
- (f) The present Law has decimated unions membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Randol F. Fawkes,  
Leader,  
The Labour Party.