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BAHAMIAN POLITICS

Commentary: Politics of contradiction

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A young Opposition Member of Parliament recently blasted the government about the problem the country faces with the ever increasing national debt. He is correct about the borrowing, but as is typical with political hyperbole, he offers no ideas on how to solve the problem or how his party would have handled the world recession.

He then contradicts himself in a newspaper article by asking, "*Why invest more borrowed money into the ground, rather than in people?*"

Suggesting the country borrow to spend on people contradicts his earlier position that the government is borrowing too much. A lack of consistency in public policy recommendations to say the least.

Of course inconsistencies like this can be found on both sides of the isle when politicians think of little more than sound bites in attempt to "motivate" their supporters. But this does more harm in long run, particularly on the big issues like the national debt. Repayment of the borrowed money does not discriminate along party lines. Every citizen is responsible for it one way or another so there needs to be some agreement between those in Parliament on a possible resolution.

Dr. Richard Rahn of the CATO Institute pointed out recently that the political class in Canada and Sweden "*summon(ed) the political will to make necessary changes in spending, taxing and regulations*" to prevent fiscal disaster. Both governing and opposition members there came together in the mid 1990's to make those necessary changes. Surely the political class here can follow their lead?

One thing that is certain, the bigger the government gets, and the more it attempts to "provide", the more citizens have to pay in the form of taxes or inflation. Either way a lower standard of living results because nothing is free.

Members of Parliament know this, but in some cases, it appears the hope of short term political gain is more important than future generations.

Yours in Liberty,
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