

Good Gracious Mr. Jones, Helmets and Vests If I Protest?

Good Gracious Mr. Jones, Helmets and Vests If I Protest? Barbadians were taken on an excursion that was quite unlike Mia Mottley's in Swan Street or Harry Husbands at several private schools over the past fortnight.

MP Jones was judge, jury, and executioner. MP Jones classified, castigated, and determined who were interacting with criminal elements and the actions that were divisive, but he failed to speak out against social injustice. MP Jones preferred to inform Barbadians under a veiled threat that the resources of the military would be called upon as a matter of 'necessity' since law and order, defined by Jones' Law would have to be restored. Jones demonstrated a desperation that characterises the despotic regimes that have done more harm to their people far worse than any external forces.

It was a vain attempt to cut down MP Mottley given her noticeable and appreciated performances thus far since returning to the helm of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP). Since when did things deteriorate or would likely descend into chaos in a modern-day Barbados as to contemplate the dreaded call for the military and

paramilitary forces in the restoration of law and order? How can a minister of the crown demand in a civil society such as Barbados that those with authority fleece and pounce upon the marginalised and downtrodden? Why would MP Jones, assuming his sanity and sobriety, advocate and threaten that there will be likely 'necessity' to "crack some heads" and to "shoot some people" in order to cut down the voices of the poor and oppressed?

Is MP Jones aware that lack of economic growth consistently over a few years and increased unemployment especially among our youth are sufficient to create the felicity conditions that would spring "a groundswell to breed insurrection?" Does the Leader of the Opposition going into the agricultural belt or trying to see first-hand the paucity that is gripping the vendors' booths really amount to a "groundswell to breed insurrection?" Is MP Jones concerned for the many persons across Barbados finding it extremely difficult to make ends meet on a day-to-day basis?

Did Rodney Grant's pronouncement on the growing categories of poor people and, revealing evidence on the pauperisation of the middle-class expose the Minister to dreaded realities in Barbados? Is MP Jones' callousness a distraction for shunning the real situations of plight and

hopelessness that are impacting on increased numbers of Barbadians everyday and in voluminous ways?

Should there be figurative displays of folly from the main MP that has an awesome influence over the nation's youth and entire education system? Does MP Jones possess a fascination with insurrection and violence that is now coming to the fore? Is MP Jones' most objectionable incitement to violence more to do with his strong craving for political limelight or was this a set of drivel more closely associated with his previous demonic and sinister castings over the country's youth?

Will MP Jones' accusations that there are "people who want to divide Barbados" be taken seriously given that two political parties are represented in the Barbados House of Assembly and, there is no visible or authentic evidence that there was a naked grab for power during or after the last general election. This is also considering that there were political sightings and rumours of costly enticements regarding votes and elements within the electorate.

Clearly this is a case of a politician having 'no respect for democracy' and one that would rather summon state-sanctioned violence as part of a ploy for maintaining the paramount edge of a political party gravitating towards authoritarianism and dictatorship. If

MP Jones has evidence to support the view that there are elements from amongst his political class that are offering 'hidden help and support' to criminal elements in Barbados, then I think he has a fiduciary duty to report such to the Director of Public Prosecutions or to the Royal Barbados Police Force.

However, it is very disingenuous for MP Jones to cry foul if people are willing to engage the 'motley crew' because they feel so neglected by a government that threatens more than it listens. Barbadians will not be silenced nor do we want to be divided. Barbadians will agitate; our history of struggle and resistance says that is the blue print of our never-ending struggle for progress and empowerment.

Mr Ronald Jones, personally I like you; but I am very disappointed in you. To the people of Barbados you must immediately offer an unconditional apology. Should there be no apology forthcoming, you should resign or be fired.

Equally, if the DLP and the Prime Minister condones your behaviour and endorses your menacing words of protracted violence by the apparatuses of the state, that would surely indicate to Barbadians that the country must resist the authoritarian direction. A public scolding and retrenchment of

MP Jones' executive position are in order.

I implore all Barbadians to become enamoured for peaceful protest. We must be willing to join in chorus with legitimate agitation against all forms of social injustices, and against all forms of violence even if perpetuated by the state. As Barbadians that are serious about being strict guardians of our heritage and form craftsmen of our fate, we cannot oblige the Jones' of this world with their forms of incitement and wanting to silence us into obsequiousness. Barbados, I urge you to be strong resistance and be fortified in defence of our rights and freedoms; these are given under the Constitution of Barbados.