



**Statement by Hon Roy McTaggart, The Leader of the Opposition**

**Thoughts On The Evening Before Parliament.**

October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

In my view and in the view of the entire Opposition we have seen over the past week what I believe is a government that has become increasingly desperate and heavy handed. Not only have they banded together to prevent a motion of lack of confidence in the Speaker from being debated but they have done so on a false premise.

Earlier this afternoon my office sent out the Letter from the Deputy Speaker that incorrectly stated that we were out of time in filing the motion of lack of confidence in the Speaker. My response to the Deputy Speaker took pains to explain that her ruling was blatantly wrong. I will not go into the detail again here. But in summary the Deputy Speaker's argument is that Saturday should not be included in the calculation of the five clear days required for notice. In fact, the Interpretation Act does include a Saturday in computing 'five clear days'. Only Sundays and public holidays are excluded days. Our motion was definitely filed on time. However, also of note is that the motion was also filed by the deadline set by the Clerk of Parliament – that is Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>.

So, the Deputy Speaker is blatantly wrong and I suspect she has not consulted the Hon Attorney General on this matter. I do not know whom she would have sought advice from. The Government and the Deputy Speaker have, therefore, hijacked a valid motion that has been correctly filed.



Further this afternoon I attended the Business Committee Meeting along with the Member for Red Bay, Sir Alden McLaughlin. Once again, we experienced how heavy handed this Government has become. Despite our motion of a Lack of Confidence In the Government having been filed a week prior to the Confidence in Government motion being brought by MP Dwayne Seymour, the Government again hijacked the process and placed MP Seymour's motion on the Order Paper for tomorrow, 7 October ahead of our Lack of Confidence in Government motion.

Given what I am increasingly seeing from this government the words of Harry Truman come to mind: *"Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear."*

**~END~**