VIP PARTY CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

History of the Movement for Change

"Humankind is born free, equal in dignity and rights, endowed with reason and conscience, and should act towards one another in a spirit of humanity." Vision inspired by the People

Vision Inspired by the People, popularly known as "VIP", exists to foster an enabling environment to help create and maintain a progressive Belizean society in which the quality of life is ever improving. In this social setting, every citizen shall enjoy freedom, security and the benefits of participatory democracy. No one shall be enslaved by poverty or ignorance. The chief concerns of the VIP are the rights and opportunities of the individual, tempered by social responsibility.

VIP evolved from a group of candidates that contested the first Belmopan City Council elections in 2000. That team comprised of only two candidates, namely Hubert Enriquez and Paul Morgan Sr., businessmen and community leaders. This team grew to four candidates who contested the 2003 Belmopan City Council elections. The two others who stood up were Robert Lopez and Paul McCord. They were businessmen and community minded individuals, in their own right. The expanded team campaigned under the name B-SAFE (Belmopan Social Action for Fairness and Equality). Again the team made history at the polls, proving that respectable candidates can do very well at the polls in challenging the mass parties. A new direction in Belizean politics was set.

By January 2005, unbearable levels of economic hardship and a growing trend of government corruption prompted Belizeans to civil disobedience and to strongly call for constitutional reform. Belize’s trade unions led street protests. After weeks of crippling national unrest that saw utility cuts, school closures, street blocks, violent demonstrations, police arrests, soldiers patrolling streets and guarding the national assembly and more, the government managed to pacify the unrest, but corruption remained unpunished and unabated.

So it was in the latter part of 2005 that the VIP formed and took up the struggle of the unions and the struggle of all free thinking Belizeans who desired to create a fair and enabling environment that would give future generations the opportunity to maximize their potential. Four additional persons offered themselves as candidates, completing a slate for Belmopan City Council 2006. These four persons are: Elvira Brown, Kamil Espat, David Gonzalez and Henry Dueck. That team adopted and campaigned under the name Vision Inspired by the People (VIP). The results of that election continued, PG. 11

Representation of the People

Contributed by Paul Morgan, Sr.

FOR THOSE of us who were born between the Rio Hondo and the Sar-stoon, our Belizean nationality was an act of God and not a result of our genius. Belizeans who were not born in this land chose the legal opportunity to so become. However we came by our stake in Belize, we are all profoundly affected by the acts or omissions of our government. By its policies and acts, government can make our lives either

Belize’s Border Is For Real

THE TERRITORIAL boundary of Belize was demarcated in 1859 as part of a Treaty of settlement between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Guatemala. The boundary therefore is real. It is defined in our Belizean Constitution and all Belizeans are aware of its existence and approximate location. Despite its unfounded claim to the territory of Belize, Guatemala has also recognized this border continued, PG. 6
Oil makes Dollars while Transparency makes Sense

Paul M. Morgan Sr.,
VIP Chairman

In any lasting business, dollars cannot be made without sense. It is now “street knowledge” that BNE has extracted and sold over half billion dollars of Belizean oil. It is also generally known that of this haul, only 1 in every six dollars comes back to the people of Belize. Maybe this return is too little, maybe it is too much and then again maybe it is just right.

Over the past few days we have heard the government’s side and we have heard a little from BNE. Their accounts just do not match and you may guess that both their stories come from the mouths of kissing lovers.

After listening to both versions of where our oil money went, the people of Belize seem to be totally confused. Blind supporters of the government swear that GOB’s story is right, while those of us who do not have much faith in the honesty of our government smell foul play. Maybe this state of division and confusion was intentionally induced and then again, maybe not. The fact is that the real story of Belizean oil proceeds is not clear; certainly not to Belizeans.

The whole matter would be a joke were it not a critical industry at stake. Like the Hebrews of the Bible who had Manna from Heaven, oil money maybe the windfall that Almighty God has provided to take us through this era of world-wide depression. But anything misused, even good things, can and will be misused.

Our perspective, your vision, so we can share it with our readers. No “kids gloves” needed. Two heads are better than one. Peace!

New Direction, A Renewed People

Write us with your perspective, your vision, so we can share it with our readers. No “kids gloves” needed. Two heads are better than one. Peace!

Oil makes dollars. Transparency makes sense.
Social Justice is an ideal goal of a society where all members of the society are entitled to fair treatment under the law and are also entitled to their just share of the benefits of the society. Fair treatment means that the laws of the land apply to everyone equally, and that the administrators of the laws apply them equally to everyone. The laws themselves must be directed towards guaranteeing basic fundamental rights to all members of the society. These basic rights relate to the indispensable needs that we as humans need to survive and to live a decent life as humans. These rights are access to adequate food and water, access to adequate shelter, access to adequate education, health and security. These rights must be enshrined in the supreme law of the land so that society must bestow these rights on all its members. These rights cannot be selective, and each individual must have these rights regardless of their social and/or economic status, race, colour, religious and/or political beliefs and ancestry.

The application of these rights then automatically gives the members of the society their just share of the benefits of the society. This means that the proceeds from the utilization of the society’s natural and human resources must be, by supreme law, be invested in guaranteeing and granting the basic rights to the members of society. This leads to the members of the society living a decent life and being more productive, thereby steadily improving the state of the nation. This also means that the wealth of the nation is distributed equitably via the provision of the basic fundamental rights.

The guarantee and provision of the basic fundamental rights by a nation to all its citizens automatically stops, or at worst, substantially curbs, corruption, misuse and abuse of public funds. If a government responsibly provides the basic needs of its citizens, then the resources must be distributed equitably and not directed towards only a few bank accounts. And if the government fails in its obligations to provide these basic rights to its citizens, then the people will bring down the government. This puts the ultimate check and balance in the hands of the people.

If corruption is substantially curbed or completely stopped at the governmental level, then the government will be in a strong moral position to impose order in the society. Order will be easier to achieve because the incentives and/or excuses for crime will be non-existent. If a citizen has all the basic needs mentioned above, then he/she has no reason to steal or kill. If a person that does not have money, assets or access to financing, has a child that is intelligent and diligent in school, then his/her economic deficit will not be an impediment to his/her child achieving their ultimate academic goal in life. If a person is ill, then that person does not have to worry about raising a huge amount of cash to get the medical attention he/she needs.

In this way, the society benefits by developing every and all the brilliant minds without any falling through the cracks. In our society, how many brilliant minds either go to waste or are underdeveloped because of lack of finance? Then, who suffers? The society suffers every time a mind is wasted or underdeveloped. It then becomes more costly for the society to correct such mistakes. And such costs are then extracted from the citizens. Life then becomes expensive and the basic needs more and more become unattainable.

Is Social Justice attainable in Belize?

The pursuit of social justice, perhaps seemingly, has as its foundation, fundamental and sound economic principles. In fact, justice relates more to economics, because the laws of the society are directed towards the equitable distribution of wealth for the welfare of each citizen and the society as a whole. It forces the administrators of government to be wise in investments and it curbs or stops the abuse of public resources for private gains; because at the end of the day, the government must provide, by supreme law, the basic needs for ALL its citizens.

It responsibly takes into account a fundamental constant of economics – the limited supply of resources and the wise optimizing of the utilization of these resources for the good of the society.

The first step to Social Justice is accepting that all people have the undeniable right to a decent life. The second step is building the political will of the people to achieve Social Justice. The third step is taking control of our resources. The fourth step is utilizing the resources wisely and distributing them to the benefit of the society and to its citizens.

When a government is in a strong moral position to impose order, the people will support the government. Then the people must take control of their resources. These resources to be controlled are oil, water, electricity, telecommunications, land, air and waters and sea. Most of these are already controlled by private entities.

One way to control these by the government directly taking a portion of the controlling private companies’ gross revenues into account without allowing the companies to raise their rates to the public (Taxation). Of course, the amount must be based on analyses that take into account the companies’ history of profits and turnovers. For example, consider the following: the oil must be nothing less than 50% of the gross sales if taxation is to be used to get our share.

“The pursuit of social justice, perhaps .... ironically, has as its foundation, fundamental and sound economic principles.”

Other ways involving nationalization may be structured by government either granting or expressing a desire for the government to have a good controlling portion of these companies. Another option is by government reclaiming for the public good, all the public resources; and then it may tender out the operation of these resources. In the case of the oil, the government must reclaim all the land and everything beneath the ground and tender out the oil operations to interested operating companies. In the case of utilities, it may just acquire a controlling portion of the company or directly take a portion of the gross proceeds of the company.

Once the government has taken control of these resources, then it must wisely distribute the benefits to the members of the society. Every house must have access to water. Every citizen will be able to get food either at a private store through a government voucher system or directly from a government food outlet. Or, as in Venezuela, the government can operate large stores that sell basic food items of generic brands at very low prices. The government must also grant each citizen access to housing through the physical provision of homes or apartments, or through very low cost financing.

The government must also regain control of the educational institutions. If the churches insist on maintaining their role in education, they must accept that they will not be able to charge any fees from the students. The government may agree to an operator’s fee for them, at most. They must then embark on a truancy program where all people must attend school at least up to high school. Education must be guaranteed from kindergarten to doctorate for every citizen. The books must be standardized and they must not cost the student.

The government must also invest in preventive medicine. This means that doctors will be going out to the people immunizing them against preventable diseases and educating the people on healthy, hygienic practices. The hospitals must always have available good doctors and nurses and basic medical supplies, instruments and equipment. They must also invest in keeping up with medical technology.

It must be said at this point that the citizen also have the right to choose if they want to go to the public school or if they want to pay a private school. This applies to health. The citizens will be able to choose between utilizing the public system or paying a private hospital. They will also be free to build their own homes or acquiring a government or government-funded house. It boils down to the allocation of resources. Under Social Justice, a society gives priority to developing its citizens to be responsible. In our present society we neglect the development of our citizens and then we spend a lot more on catching and punishing criminals. At the end of the day, in our capitalist society we end up wasting money and spending money to fight preventable negative conditions. While in a socialist society, resources are invested to develop its citizens and so prevent a future decadent society. A socialist society invests now, while our capitalist society spends and wastes later. Our human resources are the greatest resource and we must utilize our natural resources wisely to invest in developing our human resources.

Where will all the money for these rights come from? Straight from the resources of the country. If we invest wisely in our people, then we will have a legacy of thieves, murderers, beggars and a wretched society for centuries to come. It’s basic – what we sow today, we and our generations will reap later.
10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

DATE ACTIVITY
Friday February 12, 2010 Newsletter Launch
Saturday February 13, 2010 Punta Gorda and Dangriga Visit
Sunday February 14, 2010 Anglican Church Service and Visit to Gales Point
Saturday February 20, 2010 San Ignacio / Santa Elena and Belize Visit
Saturday February 27, 2010 Orange Walk and Corozal Visit
Wednesday March 3, 2010 Parade, City of Belmopan

We Invite you to Join Us in Celebrating 10 Years Of the March for Proper Representation!

“A New Direction, A Renewed People”

Belizean Vision

A brave people that moved from poverty to prosperity, from a popular tourist destination to a modern nation.

A nation where people are mentally, physically, and economically free.

Where government governs less and serves more, forcing tyranny forever out the door.

Where development is more about empowering the masses and less about securing the classes.

Where every able person is gainfully employed, living more in hope and less in dope.

Where workers are prized, not trivialized.

Where families work to enjoy the best of food, safety, education and healthcare, all in spiritual prayer.

Belize, a nation where neighborhoods become brotherhoods and sisterhoods.

Where people save for rainy days and invest to earn rest, recreation and retirement years.

Belize, the marvel of Central America and the Caribbean, sitting with dignity at the table of nations, giving her worth and getting her due.

Woman’s Vision

VIP promotes Proportional Representation in all aspects of life; as such the issue of CREATING SPACE for Women in our organization is a priority. Don’t listen to the chat out there about there being 7 to 10 Women here to 1 Man. The truth is that No Society can make that claim – Belize is almost 1 Woman to 1 Man (50:50). As such, VIP envisions a government (Cabinet, CEOs, Head of Departments and other Top Brass Officers of Departments, etc.) comprising of as close to 50:50 ratio where male/female gender is concerned to be truly Proportionally Representing our people in government.

Although there exist various models to choose from when we speak of Proportional Representation, any model chosen would allow for greater involvement by Women at the highest levels of government. In the models the VIP has been considering, all the “Indirectly Elected” SAFE SPOTS on the PARTY LIST (be it Open or Closed) will be reserved for Women candidates; our Men will face the “Direct Election Process” that gets really personal and dirty. By being able to avoid the personal attacks on character and dirty campaigns, VIP is confident that our slates will be 50:50 male to female.

As to what VIP is currently doing with SPACE for Women – our ten member National Executive Committee (NEC) currently comprises four (4) Women. VIP currently has a Woman Secretary General in the person of Marta Hendrikx. Marta fearlessly stood up in 2008 for Women at a time when no other Woman contested a National Election against the UDP-PDP System. At the Municipal level the VIP has been able to recruit Women candidates a bit more easily. They are being able to field a slate made up of three (3) Women in 2009 – with the addition of Berta Seravia, as opposed to only two (2) Women candidates in 2006 – Elvira Brown and Kamil Espat. All three (3) Women candidates of the Belmopan City Council elections sit on the NEC along with Ms. Hendrikx who was our only Woman candidate for the national level General Elections of 2008.

Why Belizean Women Stay out of Politics

M. Hendrikx, MA

MY ANSWER to this question, asked by a group of visiting foreign students, was simply that “given the choice of being at home taking care of the children or of being at a political or public meeting, the average Belizean woman will choose to be at home to ensure her family’s comfort and safety.”

STEREOTYPING is definitely not my intention. Being a woman, I can relate to the many women who have strong and intelligent views on the challenges facing all Belizens. By so relating, I can also understand the multiple responsibilities that women take care of on a daily basis, most times without recognition, appreciation, nor reward. Getting involved in politics would be ONE MORE JOB TO JUGGLE, and one that would demand sacrificing our children, our home, and our children.

Traditionally, men have felt free and have been free to pursue political and other extra-curricular activities, and this has been made possible because of the presence of a strong and responsible woman at home. This woman has either been a grandmother, mother, a daughter, or even a housekeeper, who in taking care of the home front, has allowed the man the freedom to pursue his interests.

NOW, however, we cannot continue to wait for the overwhelm social and economic challenges to disappear, or to be solved by the men working alone. It is PRIME TIME for us to STEP UP and STEP OUT of the home and apply those problem solving skills, knowledge, methods, and instincts that are uniquely female. Our children are confronting an hostile environment – teenage pregnancy, peer pressure, HIV AIDS, drugs, gangs, corruption, prison, and even domestic violence. What are we doing about it?

Women, we can no longer take care of our children only at home, when the dangers they are facing are on the street, on the bus, on the school compound, with their friends, at the park, and on the internet. The massive national debt that is being piled layer upon layer on our children, will only be usefully tackled in the world of policy making and in the making of laws and financial dealings....in the Assembly Building.

I have undertaken the post of Secretary General of the Vision Inspired by the People (VIP) because I firmly believe that we will only be able to make a difference for our present and future generations if we get involved.

It is a big challenge indeed to step out into the political arena, but I am motivated to know that women around the country will recognize the importance of taking our obligation to our children and grandchildren to the next level.

Kudos WIP

THE VIP National Executive Committee (NEC) acknowledges and extends warm congratulations to the cadre of women, participant in the Women in Politics (WIP) Project Workshops.

YOUR VISION, courage, and commitment to enhancing the development of Belize, are illustrated by your participation in the intensive and extended training, being provided by the NWC and UNIFEM.
Future articles will assess our current representation and the overall governance system. It has been over 100 days since city and town councils have been elected, and we need to ask whether our representatives are truly serving the people. Our political system is not working, and we need to improve it. This month, we will focus on the representation system.

BELIZEAN NEEDS jobs, an affordable cost of living, safety from crime and good services from local and national government. We demand transparency, accountability and good governance. NOW MORE than ever we need a united Belize, a productive Belize, a Belize that is conducive to family life, where social justice is a norm and where the people are properly represented. The time for our local and national governments to deliver is now.

SO THE VIP now begins to publicly address the issues that we see as impediments to national development. We will do so with fairness to all and malice toward none. We will hold high objectivity and aim only to advance national development.

OUR FIRST issue for public engagement is that of REPRESENTATION. We ask the media and civil society to lend a hand in bringing the issues to the people.

**Renewal of the Belizean People**, continued, PG. 1

our representation system is not working and that needs to be changed. Elected representatives now mistakenly believe offer representation. Each will reflect on the evolution of our system of representation. Future articles will assess our current representation and the overall governance issues of our nation. Some of those articles will also project into the future and put forward some suggestions to remodel and renew Belize’s representation system. So let’s start the discussion.

BELIZE ABANDONED DEMOCRACY

Belize began with democracy. It is recorded that by 1630, British settlement of Belize was underway. That they might create social order, settlers in St. George’s Caye and Belize Settlement, (now Belize City), held informal meetings to agree on social issues. This voluntary compliance system worked well for some time and by 1798, the year of that glorious Battle of St. Georges Cay, Settlers of Belize were fully governed by a system known as “Public Meetings”. Resolutions in these meetings were binding and enforceable. Under the Public Meeting system, voters did not elect representatives, they voted a vote of no confidence or removed council members. Meetings were held in the bay, in the center of town and in various locations around the city. The superintendent was elevated to a lieutenant governor, subordinate to the crown’s representative. The power of Monarchial/Party Representation they now mistakenly believe offer representation is to organize voters into voting blocks. Neither does Direct Democracy eliminate the influence exerted by powerful individuals or groups upon those in positions of authority. This is so because proposals that seek public support and implementation must be seen as beneficial to the larger majority of society. In other words, most voters have to like it before it becomes government policy or law. Direct Democracy also enhances autonomy. With an environment that promotes autonomy, each voter remains unsupported. Without a centralized environment, it is more difficult for corruption to arise. In a system where voters directly speak on their behalf, the middleman we call “Mr. Politician” is effectively put in check. Even though Direct Democracy minimizes the role of modern day politicians, it does not eliminate the role political parties play, which is to organize voters into voting blocks. Neither does Direct Democracy eliminate the need for an Executive body and a Judiciary. To the contrary, Direct Democracy exerts less pressure on managers, increases the management of information and serves the general good without partisan bias. Note that in the days of the Public Meetings, Magistrates were appointed to oversee justice.

How the People Lost Power

From the early to mid 1800s, information technology did not keep pace with government. The only way to communicate was by horseback, on foot, or by boat. This made it difficult to transmit results from any location in the country. In this 21st century, information technology is widely available and ample computing power is at hand. In this environment, we can communicate instantly and transmit results of polls from Rio Hondo to the Sarstoon and from our most eastern caye to our VERY REAL western border. People can be instantaneously informed on issues and they need not travel to cast a vote. The big question is, can the people of Belize exercise the power given to them by the people they elect? That is a question we will answer in this edition of PR.

In 1854 a public meeting in Belize and the British Parliament both sanctioned a Legislative Assembly for Belize. It was by this faithful move that the people’s power was ceded into what has turned out to be the tyrannical hand of representatives. And we know that when a representative elected then and those we elect now have no real obligation to represent the views of the electorate. This move was Belize’s first cultural walk away from democracy. Referendum was abandoned, Initiatives were limited and Recall was effectively barred.

According to the LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, Country Studies: “The Legislative Assembly of 1854 was to have eighteen elected members, each of whom was to have at least £400 sterling worth of property. The assembly was also to have three official members appointed by the superintendent. The fact that voters had to have property yield an income of £7 a year or a salary of a £100 a year reinforced the restrictive nature of this legislature. The superintendent could defer or dissolve the assembly at any time, originate legislation, and give or withhold consent to bills. This situation suggested that the legislature was more a chamber of debate than a place where decisions were made. The Colonial Office in London became, therefore, the real political-administrative power in the settlement. This shift in power was reinforced when in 1862, the Settlement of Belize in the Bay of Honduras was declared a British colony called British Honduras, and the crown’s representative was elevated to a lieutenant governor, subordinate to the governor of Jamaica.”

Can Democracy Return to Belize?

“A long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it a superficial appearance of being right, and raises a formidable outcry in defense of custom.” — Thomas Paine (Common Sense)

In this 21st century, information technology is widely available and ample computing power is at hand. In this environment, we can communicate instantly and transmit results of polls from Rio Hondo to the Sarstoon and from our most eastern caye to our VERY REAL western border. People can be instantaneously informed on issues and they need not travel to cast a vote. The big question is, can the people of Belize exercise the power given to them by the people they elect? That is a question we will answer in this edition of PR.

Eric Hoffer warned us well: “When watching men of [c]oercive political [p]ower in action it must be always kept in mind that, whether they know it or not, their main purpose is the elimination or neutralization of the independent individual -- the independent voter, consumer, worker, owner, thinker -- and that every device they employ aims at turning men into a manipulable ‘animated instrument’ which is Aristotle’s definition of a slave.” — Eric Hoffer
FIVE PILLARS OF NATIONHOOD

National Unity

NATIONAL UNITY: A people become a nation only when they struggle together upholding their responsibilities and rejoice together enjoying their rights.

Belize’s Territorial Integrity and the right of Belizians to Self Determination must never be compromised.

Belize’s natural resources and environment are entrusted for each generation for future generations. Any use thereof must be in accordance with sound policies of conservation and sustainability.

All Belizians must benefit equitably from the use of Belize’s natural resources.

Communities must take primary responsibility and authority within their own environs.

Citizenship records, healthcare, education, legal representation and other government services must be afforded to all Belizians regardless of economic means.

Belize’s national symbols must represent the consciousness of all our cultures.

Belize demands from every Belizean, good citizenship and full personal effort to develop our nation.

Belize demand responsible accountability from all who serve the public.

Belize demands social responsibility from all private sector operators.

To achieve sustainable national development, the government of Belize must pursue a common Belizean AGENDA that sets out national development targets.

Productivity

A CULTURE OF PRODUCTIVITY: With appropriate education the people will innovate to improve the environment while Government must motivate and maintain the environment.

Human capital development must become the key strategy in Belize’s move towards productivity.

Belize must move first to produce what we consume.

Government must ensure that Belize’s resources and services are directed toward the production of goods and services for local and foreign markets.

Government must invest in production and business research.

The productive capacity of Belizians living abroad must be harnessed and directed towards Belize’s National Development.

Government must treat producer as partners in business and not merely as tax beasts of burden.

Social Justice

SOCIAL JUSTICE: Economic prosperity and political power are meaningless if not accompanied by personal dignity.

Belizians must have equal rights and treatment in accessing national services and resources.

Protection and empowerment of the most vulnerable; THE POOR of society must be a priority in the distribution of our nation’s wealth.

Political victimization and patronage must be vigorously combated.

Campaign fairness laws must be passed and strictly enforced to bring equity to our political system.

The INTEGRITY of the Public Service must be restored to make government effective and efficient.

Family Life

FAMILY LIFE: Our children are the lifeline of our nation. The family unit provides protection for their survival and development.

Belize’s sustainable development depends on the rear children to their best possible physical, mental and spiritual health. The family institution must be supported in doing so.

A parenting initiative emphasizing fatherhood must be started.

A National Family Safety Network must be established to ensure that no child falls victim to parental misfortune, delinquency or abuse.

The right to food, safety, healthcare, education, housing, and education for children must be prominent focal points in formulating government’s national development policies.

Representation

FAIR REPRESENTATION: Government must reflect the People’s will.

Voting to elect our government is a Belizean birthright.

Representatives of the people must be accountable to the electorate or lose their mandate.

Proportional Representation must replace the current “first past the post” election system.

The people must be facilitated to vote directly on national issues by way of Referendum.

Belize’s governance must be intensely studied at every level of Belize’s formal education.

The right of the Press to government information and to responsibly inform the public must be upheld.

and so too has the international community.

THE VIP was shocked therefore to learn of a statement made by our Foreign Minister and Attorney General classifying our border as “Artificial”.

Even more intensely, the VIP condemn the inaction of Belize’s Prime Minister in dealing with such a characterization. In the same light, the VIP views with heightened alarm the gradual erosion of guardianship of our country’s territory since independence in 1981.

OUR INTENSE condemnation is underlined by the fact that both PUP and UDP administrations have, since independence in 1981, presided over this continuing loss of Belize’s territorial integrity. In 1992 this duo collaborated to effect that infamous Maritime Areas Act which limited our southern territorial sea to less than what our independence constitution describes.

In 2000, this duo presided over the changing of our western border into an “adjacency zone”, an act that clearly compromises our national territory. Only last year in 2009, this same duo initiated and promoted the infamous “compromise” that may lead Belize into giving up our territory before the International Court of Justice.

And now this administration adds insult to injury by internationally trivializing our border as “artificial”.

THE VIP maintains that Belize’s territorial integrity and the right of Belizians to self determination must never be compromised.

Belize is a legitimate member of the United Nations as accepted in 1981 with its border defined. That is the world order today and no claim by Guatemala can change the fact.

While the VIP supports Belize in extending a hand of friendship to all nations of the world (including Guatemala), we also demand that the Guatemalan government drop its illegitimate, unjust, and outdated claim to our territory.

THE VIP hereby calls on the Prime Minister to take the necessary actions to assure Belizeans that his administration is intent on the proper guardianship of our very real, national border.

(Photo by K. Silva)
IN 1989, I applied for a development concession for the expansion of my furniture business. I later found out it was the last concession approved by the UDP administration in July 1989. One month later they lost the elections. Little did I know that concessions and land leases were viewed as political favors and can cost you in two ways. The granting Party will come to you for favors and the other will victimize you. The UDP lost and the PUP wasted no time in coming at me! While a concession could not be cancelled without good reason, land leases could. A 26 acre parcel I had leased to plant bamboo and rattan on the coastal road was given to another person. A lease to build my factory was also cancelled one week after election even though I had already started to build! I was beginning to see the wisdom in my dad’s advice, “stay out of politics”. 

IN 1992-93, I was approached by the UDP to run, but I turned it down. Instead I supported Melvin Hulse Sr. who ran for NABR. I liked Melvin. He was a true Patriot and was fighting to keep our borders and seas intact! I don’t remember being approached in 1998 as I was once more supporting Melvin Hulse Sr. Two months before the election, my dad showed me a letter from the PDP! Melvin understood that I would support my dad. This was my first experience on a political platform in support of my Dad. I enjoyed the experience. That year also saw my good friend Miley Garcia running independent. Five candidates ran for Cayo South. Agripino Cawich won with a landslide 2827 votes and John Saldivar lost with 1351. While my dad only garnered 14 votes, Melvin 43 and Miley 272, those were 329 voters who stood up for change. They were fed up with the two party system. This was truly the beginning of the Independent/third party movement in Belmopan.

LEADING up to Belmopan’s first City council election, Agripino Cawich had initiated a friendship with me. He often shared his disappointed for not receiving a ministerial post and how discontented he was to be warming a seat with the back-benchers. He often stopped by my business to talk and ask my advice and opinion. We became good friends and in 1999 Agripino asked me if I would like to run for mayor on a PUP slate for the 2000 local elections. Though I declined, we remained friends until his death in 1999.

IN 2000, I was on a business trip abroad when I heard that Paul and Hubert had stepped up to the challenge. I will never forget standing on the sidelines and admiring my colleagues running as independent counsel candidates. I made a promise that I would run in the next election. Little did I know that the UDP would make another attempt to get me to run for their person. In 2003, the UDP executive called me several times and asked me to run for mayor of Belmopan or run for the Cayo South constituency. The Belmopan UDP committee came to see me at my office. I once more declined but offered that we could attempt a coalition with our group of 4. That did not work and the UDP lost anyway. Feeling more spiritually, morally and philosophically aligned with my three colleagues, I ran with our B-SAFE platform. Though we did not win our counselor seats, the EFFORT was a victory none-the-less.

LATER IN 2003, the UDP asked me again if I would consider running for the bi-election for Cayo South. Again they invited me to a meeting with their Party executive. I was offered the candidacy without even going to a convention! It did not feel right and I declined. It was not power that I wanted. If it was, I could have easily run with the UDP and won. I wanted change. I wanted to serve without fear or favor.

IN 2006 our B-SAFE group evolved into VIP and we put a full slate together. Once more the results were encouraging and we celebrated yet another victory in our own right. In January, 2007, the VIP was the first Party to present a slate for the 2008 general elections. We were expecting an early election call by the PUP. Though the results were not impressive, history has recorded that we did run. With no time to waste, we began preparing for the 2009 municipal elections. This time we added a VIP song and our Belize City supporters also came to help. Our efforts once more made history and we set a record no other independent/third party has accomplished. We beat the PUP! We received congratulations from all ends of the country and encouragement to keep up the good work.

THE LONGER we take to change, the more we prolong our condition. The Belizean state of reluctance to change is like the frog experiment we all did in high school. Since Independence, the PUDP has had our populace in the pot with water, slowly turning up the heat. We don’t have to stay in the boiling water and get cooked my Belizean brothers! You also don’t want to jump out of the pot and into the fire! Like some did in 2008 and 2009. Belizeans, open your eyes. Set your fear aside. If the PUDP really cared for Belize, we would not be in the mess we are in today. If the PUDP was serious about Transparency, they would have followed our example and accepted our challenge to make public their campaign financing. Make a mistake! This is the root of political corruption! The difference is clear between the PUDP and the VIP. We are transparent, they are not.

TODAY, I no longer feel helpless because I am standing up for what is right and just! I now go to the polls each time with confidence, excitement and determination. I no longer have to vote for the “lesser of two evils” as so many still do. I chose to be a part of something new and positive. I chose to champion the cause for political transparency. I chose to run with service minded, people inspired, and most of all God committed Belizeans. I chose to be with a party that prays together and stays together! You can too! Join the VIP.
Why Belize is Underdeveloped
Contributed by Paul M. Morgan Sr.,

Those of us who celebrated Belize's Independence in 1981 were for the most part, filled with optimism. We believed then that Belize would finally be administered by and for Belizens. We truly believed in “dis da fu we Belize”. But oh how wrong we were. We could not imagine that our own Belizen leaders would foalicate us so cruelly.

It was not due to lack of vigilance on our part. Political observers will agree that for the entire 29 years and counting, the Belizian people have rotated political parties in an effort to get leaders who would work towards national development. We tried the PUP for 17 years, in 4 administrations. We tried the UDP for 12 years and counting. The UDP had 2 past administrations and are on their 3rd. Instead of helping this country toward national development, the elite of these two parties, (not the poor supporters), have feasted on our blood and have cropped on the future of our children.

For 29 years, these two have combined to squander Belize's opportunity to become a real nation. No wonder this government now claims that we have an artificial border. Today Belize does not have a sense of National Unity. This fact becomes evident when one looks at race relations in our country. They have not made Belize a productive nation. Just imagine, we import almost all the food we eat! Belize does not have a healthy Family Life Environment. Ask the grieving mothers of children being gunned down in Belize city and all over this nation. Under the leadership of these two parties, Belize has not even developed responsibility for Social Justice. Just listen to the cries of Belizian brothers and sisters asking for the public’s assistance to get basic life saving health care, or just take a look at the homeless persons loitering in front of Belize City’s Queen Street Police Station. And the matter that maintains all this misery in our country is the inequity in the representation of people in governmental affairs.

Why must Belize City alone have more representatives than Corozal and Orange walk districts combined? After all, these two districts together have in excess of 7751 voters more than the entire Belize City. This is more than the number of voters in Queen Square and Mesopotamia combined. Toledo and Stann Creek combined have about 63% of the number of voters in Belize City but these two districts of Citrus, Fishing, and Banana fame get only 40% of the representation held by Belize City. Voters in the southern and western districts of Belize outnumber Belize City voters more than 1.5 to 1, yet the number of representatives is exactly equal.

I am not calling for less representation for Belize city. I am however calling for more representation for the rest of the country. When people get only 40% of the representation held by Belize City, they will care more, they will work harder and Belize will develop faster.

Vision without Action is Only an Illusion
Contributed by Robert A. Lopez Sr.,

I refuse to accept that in a country of our size with only 300,000+ people, rich in oil, minerals, precious gemstone, fertile land, marine-rich seas, we have almost the highest level of crime, not to mention poverty, HIV/ AIDS, high unemployment in the Caribbean.

For the purpose of this essay, I have decided to focus on crime that is wreaking havoc on our society. It is obvious that what our security forces are doing is not working! There is no HOPE in site. At this point, I believe it will take drastic non-conventional, draconian and perhaps unconstitutional measures to stop clearing up this mess. To continue with the same band-aid, knee-jerk, cosmetic approach to crime fighting will only worsen the situation. Is the government going to wait until a beloved grand-daughter of a Minister gets shot to do something? To continue with reactive responses will surely result in a collapse of our economy. Tourism will decrease and soon our own people will not be able to work, do business or will have visited or seen, for fear of being robbed or killed.

But it wasn’t always like this. Somehow I feel the turning point was shortly after independence. There was a time when we all enjoyed sleeping with our windows and doors open, leaving our homes and walking down to the store to buy, without a single worry that someone would break in. If by chance it started to rain, and your neighbor knew you had gone out, they would run over and close the windows for you. Yes, this was the simple, free, peaceful and safe Belize that generations before independence enjoyed. Not so today. Not even in the villages or the Cayes can we sleep without worrying of being robbed!

It is sad that the post independence IV generation cannot attest to having experienced those good old days. What has been seared in their minds are pictures of riot squad bullets and horrendous stories of child rape, killings and drive-by shootings, just to name a few. Our children live in constant fear at home, at play, at school even at the store!

Then there are those that have benefited from this degradation of our society. Yes, there will always be those who thrive from adverse conditions. The criminals, in order to get out of jail pay big bucks to those use all the loop holes in our legal system to set them free, perpetuating the vicious cycle. Then there is the amnesia syndrome rampanty affecting police men and witnesses. This has resulted in the introduction of new terminology in the common vocab, “Nolle Prosseuil”. Not to pursue.

We have also seen the development of several thriving businesses almost non-existent in the pre-independent era. The security industry has become the fastest growing business in Belize. In the beginning, it was just a 24/7 round the clock job. Growing up in Belmopan in the 70’s, there was only one watchman and he was employed by the one store in the city. At the local banks, there was a security officer who mostly opened the doors for the customers. At night there was police patrol. Other spin off businesses include a fast growing welding sector who can’t find enough help to make burglar bars so that today we have all imprisoned ourselves in our homes and businesses! The hardware/construction industry has also benefited from this fear-gripped society as everyone rushes to erect high fences, even before building, to further wall themselves in for added protection. And last but not least the undertakers can’t keep up with the trips to the morgue and cemetery. Business is booming!

Instead of our society evolving to higher levels where there is no need for fences and burglar bars, we have slid backwards. Most of us still believe that the pattern of other higher evolved societies around the globe, where people live in peace and harmony in beautifully landscaped suburbs. A police man already exists in the backyard to keep in the pets or enclose a pool. Why can’t we live this way?

Here is my solution to this problem. I am not a legal mind but believe that we will have to change the constitution to enable the measures below and increase crude oil tax to pay for it. If there exist a law, then amend and pleasee enforce it!

1. Enact a law that all male or female first-time petty offenders between the ages of 15 and 18 be taken to the youth cadet academy. We may need to set up more around the country. Below 15, they must be in a school or learning institution. For the 12-15 who can’t make High School, I propose establishing 4-H academic in every town and village. We already have a successful model in Belmopan to follow.

2. Expand the BDF to include training facilities for youth and able bodied males and females, over 18, who are unemployed and cannot show proof of financial support. Anyone above 18 found idling, without a job or support, will be given one month’s notice. The next time they will be picked up and taken to an adult transformation camp. This will include all those who are picked up for petty crime and small drug possession. Kolbe will only be used for life sentence hardened criminals. There will be separate areas for age and gender groups. Everyone in these camps will go through a rigorous military boot-camp for 6 months. They will learn discipline, work ethics, life/survival skills, moral and spiritual values and basic academics. This will be simultaneously done in a school setting coupled with an extended camp.
Where have our Assets Gone?

Contributed by Paul Morgan Sr.

For the past 29 years and counting, both the PUP and UDP administrations have failed Belize a sense of National Unity. As a people, we cannot claim ignorance to this fact or its consequence. We all know that Belizeans are “more equal than others”. Just look at how land is distributed in this country and you will get the picture. Look if you will, at the accessibility of government services, such as education and health, to the poorer citizens and you will get the same picture. I cannot elaborate on this point but I will punctuate this matter by focusing on 1 issue that I believe will clearly demonstrate the fleecing of Belize by the red/blue political duos.

Take a step back to independence day. You will find that the government and people owned much of the land, especially those areas that were owned by Belizeans. Belizeans owned the telephone, water, electricity, ports, company registry and need I mention more. Every tax dollar collected in the name of the people of this country went into the consolidated revenue fund. Today, 29 years after, Belize has a financial deficit and every Belizean has had their greed with the use of that proverbial smoke called “Privatization”. They dispossessed the people of Belize of their assets one piece at a time. And yet they did it in “the light of day”; legally. These two parties, each in their terms of office, gave billions of dollars to their families and friends while the people paid more taxes in the form of utility rates, travel cost and more. Except for the apologists who are hopelessly hooked to the colors blue or red, Belizeans will agree that both the PUP and the UDP are equally corrupt.

When will we ever learn?

When will Belizeans ever learn?

Where have all our assets gone?

Where have all the flowers gone? Sing along if you can.

The song “WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE” is the logic of Pete Seeger, coming from his song “WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE”.

The apologists explain why we are so desperately hooked to the colors blue or red, Belizeans will agree that both the PUP and the UDP are equally corrupt.

In situations like these, minority groups normally are at risk of being relegated to the bottom of the social ladder. Today, we see systems where ethnic minorities or small special interest groups are dominating the vast majority of the peoples of a territory. Countries like South Africa before Mandela was under Apartheid – remember, POPULAR SUPPLANTMENT is the system more closely, we have to place it in its proper perspective. Modern Societies have devised a system of government that will truly be representative of 100% of the people, not just a section that has always been there, like the Anglo-Saxons before South Africa as well as Iran, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines. Kuwait also has a significant population classified as bidun (Arabic for “without”), who are not citizens of any country. Many bidun claim to have lived in Kuwait for generations without receiving citizenship. Excerpt from Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2004 as well. Why did the USA not call for Democratic Reform in Kuwait? Why does the USA allow a Kingdom which is not democratic to continue?

The people of the world today are identified by some piece of territory where they are physically located. The people of those pieces of territories (called Countries or Independent Nation States) usually are divided into ethnic minorities (ethnicity, and/or religion, and/or language, and/or culture, etc.). Those common characteristics are most responsible for bonding them together whenever common issues need to be address. The people of Countries with there exist one dominant ethnic group and other ethnic minorities groups usually end up with a government that is dominated by this major ethnic group.

They dispossessed the people of Belize of their assets one piece at a time...they did it in the light of day; legally.

These two parties, each in their terms of office, gave away Belizean assets to their families and friends while the people paid more taxes in the form of utility rates, travel cost and more. Except for the apologists who are hopelessly hooked to the colors blue or red, Belizeans will agree that both the PUP and the UDP are equally corrupt.

Where have all our assets gone?

Contributed by Patrick Rogers

“Democracy (Greek demos, the people); kratien, “to rule”, political system in which the people of a country rule through any form of government they choose to establish. To establish, in modern democracies, supreme authority is exercised for the most part by representatives elected by the popular suffrage. The representatives may be supplanted by the electorate according to the legal procedures of recall and referendum, and they are, at least in principle, responsible to the electorate.”

Microsoft© Encarta Encyclopedia

The first principle above clearly states that “THE PEOPLE OF A COUNTRY SHOULD RULE THEMSELVES.” Therefore, any form of Kingdom that has Royalties, or a Supreme Authority, is not Democratic. Countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates are perfect examples of Kingdoms still around since being founded by UK and France when they conquered the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I (1914 - 1918). The USA removed Iraq from Kuwait, but allowed the Kingdom to return as it was before Iraq took over. How was it before Iraq took over? Approximately 45 percent of the people are native Kuwaitis, while the remainder of the population, for the most part, are foreign workers. The majority of immigrants are from other Arab countries as well as Iran, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines. Kuait also has a significant population classified as bidun (Arabic for “without”), who are not citizens of any country. Many bidun claim to have lived in Kuwait for generations without receiving citizenship. Excerpt from Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2004 as well.

Why did the USA not call for Democratic Reform in Kuwait? Why does the USA allow a Kingdom which is not democratic to continue?

The people of the world today are identified by some piece of territory where they are physically located. The people of those pieces of territories (called Countries or Independent Nation States) usually are divided into ethnic minorities (ethnicity, and/or religion, and/or language, and/or culture, etc.). Those common characteristics are most responsible for bonding them together whenever common issues need to be address. The people of Countries with there exist one dominant ethnic group and other ethnic minorities groups usually end up with a government that is dominated by this major ethnic group.

FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

COMMUNISM

SOCIALISM

CAPITALISM

Left

Middle

Right

One-Party System

Public & Private Sector Driven

Two-Party System

Public Sector Driven

State Own Economy (Closed)

Mixed Economy (both present)

Private Sector Driven

Propositional Representation

Free Enterprise Economy (Open)

1st Past the Post for Deposites

1st Past the Post Half/Congress

1. China since 1949

2. North Korea since 1948

3. Cuba (1959)

4. Laos since 1975

5. Vietnam since 1976

6. 2 Countries with elected

7. Cyprus – Communist Govt 2008

8. Nepal – Communist Govt 2008

Advoicate the abolition of capitalism and all private profit, by means of violent revolution if necessary. Centralized planned Economy fostering National self reliance, relocating Trade to an inconsequential role in the Economy. Emphasizes the ideologies modified by Leninism.

Demands State ownership and control of the fundamental means of production and distribution of wealth, to be achieved by reconstruction of the existing capitalist or other political system of a country through peaceful, democratic, and parliamentary means.

Europe (Germany, Switzerland, Scandinavia)

America (Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador, Argentina, Venezuela, Guyana, Nicaragua, El Salvador)

Africa (Egypt, Libya, South Africa)

Asia (India, Vietnam, Japan)

Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Colombia, Peru, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama

Caribbean Kingdoms (Belize)

United States of America

United Kingdom of Great Britain

UK & USA Commonwealths

In 1776. British Philosopher Adam Smith – the originator of Capitalism, said “the combination of self-interest, private property, and competition among sellers in markets will lead producers as by an invisible hand to an end that they did not intend, namely, the well being of society.”
The whole Apartheid system that was introduced in South Africa after World War II (1938 – 1945) in 1946 (imposed on the conquered people of southern Africa by the British Empire) was to have the Resources of the Territory be controlled by a Newly established European Minority - White British Citizens choosing to take up residents in newly conquered territories in Africa. The descendants of those original British Citizens were called Afrikaners, and they were the only people allowed to vote. It was so-called Democratic Elections approved by the League of Nations before World War II, and the United Nations since. Thank God for the 300 years plus struggle of the ANC that ended with the release of Nelson Mandela which heralded the end of this so-called Democratic system called Apartheid.

We today hear of a Democratic government in Israel – a NEW independent Nation established after World War II again in 1948 by the USA, UK, and European Jews that conquered the Territory (which was a part of the British Empire) under the British Mandate of Palestine. The people of Palestinian ethnicity that have lived in that territory (Yes, the same Palestinian) all their lives are not allowed to vote in so called Democratic elections. Why? Solely on the basis of Religion – Sorry, it is not Biblical – it is a JEWISH STATE established by the UK and USA and there is nothing you can do about it. If you are not a Jew, you are not a citizen of the State of Israel and you cannot vote in elections held by your ethnic group that are currently refugees in three separate pieces of Territories that Israel conquered from the Palestinians. The UK, with UK and USA technology and money, conquered the six (6) days WAR in 1967, conquered 1. Egypt (Gaza Strip), from 2. Jordan (West Bank), and from 3. Syria (Golan Heights) new Territories that were already being occupied by Palestinian refugees in these countries – East Jerusalem was also taken in that WAR. Today the UK and USA are proposing to create a NEW separate Palestinian State that would occupy these (3) Territories separated physically by other Territories.

To me it seems like the original peoples of that Territory should have gotten their independence from their Colonial Masters the British (UK) in the first place and none of this would have happened. Instead, The UK was encouraged by their Daughter The USA, to not interfere with the European Jews WAR to conquer the Territory. The UK and USA protected the Palestinian peoples of this Territory that was a colony (ironically under the British Protectorate in 1948). The UK and USA protected European Jews that fled the European mainland in fear of the Hitler Regime’s treat to kill them, and were refugees all over the continent continent; they were encouraged to return to Palestine and FIGHT USING UK AND USA MONEY, EQUIPMENTS, AND TECHNOLOGY to defeat the Palestinian people – now remember that Palestine was a part of the British Empire and was promised Independence – they got Apartheid just like South Africa did two years earlier. They are living under the rule of European Jews descendants (ie. Ariel Sharon was born in 1928 in Palestine, of European Jews that came to the Territory under the Zionist movement that was mandated by the League of Nations in 1922 – Britain was granted control over Palestine, entwining it to form the establishment of a Jewish national homeland). Israel can never declare itself a truly Democratic Nation for it DOES NOT use POPULAR SUFFRAGE – You must be a Jew to vote in their JEWISH STATE.

“Power Corrupts, and Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely!” The fourth Principle of Democracy is critical to curtailing the Powers of Elected Representative, especially those in the Executive branch of Government. REPRESENTATIVES signified by the Electorate according to legal procedures of RECALL and REFERENDUM. I wonder how it is that all these edicts established by the British Empire had since 1981 can’t understand that We are not truly Democratic if, “I CAN NOT CHECK YOU.” I am told to give ALL My POWER to the candidate of a Party that will use it for terms of five (5) years without being able to Check the candidate when the candidate is more concerned about the Party’s business than My NEEDS. Come on PUP and UDP, enough is enough, one or both of you need to enshrine these Principles in your Party’s constitutions for you to say you are truly Democratic. RECALL is a method of removing elected officials from office before the end of their terms. Normally, a petition, signed by a specified proportion of voters, must be filed with the appropriate officials who then, after verifying the signatures, order an election or by-election. The Laws of Belize DOES NOT allow for RECALL, the Laws of Belize only allow for REFERENDUMS – defined as a practice of submitting an issue to the popular vote. The proposal or issue can itself be a called a referendum. In government, the “petition referendum” originates with the voters and provides that a proposed law be put to a popular vote before it can go into effect. In the U.S., the signatures of from 5 to 10 percent of the registered voters are required to validate such a petition and assure that the referendum will be put on an early ballot. The “optional referendum” originates with a legislative body wishing to require that a specific majority of the voters accept a measure before it can become official. So-called statutory and constitutional referendums are also required in some governmental units as a part of the procedures through which certain measures, such as bond issues, taxes, and constitutional amendments, become valid. Such referendums commonly require more than a simple majority for approval, taken from Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia. In Belize, REFERENDUMS can only be called by the Prime Minister (or compul- sory if Territorial matters regarding the Belize/Guatemala dispute to be settled is to become Law). If you Parties of Belize commit to RECALL and REFERENDUM reforms in our Constitutional Laws, you will begin to put the reigns of Government...
After all, isn’t it our oil? and we would have put an end to like the Spanish lookout community replace), our entire border will look and will take billions of years to last drop of oil (it won’t last forever years when we have pumped our is a will, there is a way! man power! No bulldozers. If there was a beautiful developed communities later, Pine Hill and Springfield are they needed more land. A few years from Barton Creek had to move as More recently, two Amish groups (Mennonites) came to our country 50 possible if we only work hard. The tribunals feel they are ready for time that it is no longer necessary. We will organize these new com- bors have their side developed, we and Guatemala. After all, our neigh- area along our borders with Mexico will replace the thousands of seasonal immigrant workers who come from Guatemala and Honduras to work in the US. (But remember, they are border jumpers). While the wages are low, the pro- gram could supplement the wages to minimum rate. A portion will be deducted for the living expenses and the balance put in a bank/ credit union account. Remember that they will continue to live in military supervised facilities around the country and driven to and from work sites. All BDF camps around the country will be expanded and equipped for this initiative. Some new ones may have to be built. The program will work in cooperation with the government of Mexico, and the country, where skills training will be taught.

At a point where a Military/Civil tribunals are ready for society, there will be a passing out where each graduate will receive a house lot or acreage to develop and build a house. Those who want to go into agriculture will be leased a piece of land (5-20 acres) maybe creating a new Border development area along our borders with Mexico and Guatemala. After all, our neigh- bors have their side developed; we should also. There will be continued monitoring and support until such time that it is no longer necessary. We organize these new com- munities with programs like Habitat for Humanity, building homes for each other. I realize that everyone will not agree with my idea and there is much fine- tuning to do. But we have a great example of what is possible if we only work hard. The Mennonites came to our country 50 years ago and settled in very rough terrain, under very harsh condi- tions. Look what they have today! More recently, two Amish groups from Barton Creek had to move as they needed more land. A few years later, Pine Hill and Springfield are beautifully developed communities and it was all done with horse and mules—no bulldozers! If there is a will, there is a way! I guarantee you that in a few years we have pumped the last drop of oil (it won’t last forever and will take billions of years to replace), our entire border will look like the Spanish lookout community and we would have put an end to crime, poverty and unemployment. Let the oil tax pay for this initiative! After all, isn’t it our oil?

Belize is a Constitutional Monarchy with the Queen as Sovereign. Her Maj- esty Queen Elizabeth II of England is not only Queen of the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, but she is also Queen of Belize and fifteen other Realms having the EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY VESTED IN HER MAJESTY THEIR QUEEN. A Realm is a supposed Independent Nation State claiming to be democratic while still having their current Monarch. What we have here is “THE KINGDOM OF BELIZE! ALL HAIL THE QUEEN OF BELIZE, Elizabeth II.”

The Queen’s Royal style and title in Belize is, “Elizabeth the second, by the Grace of God, Queen of Belize and of Her Other Realms and territories, Head of the Commonwealth.” The Queen’s relationship to Belize is unique. In all her duties, she speaks and acts as Queen of Belize, and not as Queen of the UK. After 1981 we became “THE KINGDOM OF BELIZE!” Of course we know that the British Parliament and the Colonial Secretary of the UK Cabi- net has substantial say over the powers exercised by Her Majesty in Her role as Queen of the UK and other realms – check UK's Magna Carta to figure the maths. We moved from Direct British Parliamentary control (1962-1981) as a Chief Protectorate and Self-Govern- ment; then Independence made us a British Protectorate and Self-Govern- ment, and removed Direct British Parliament control, and gave them control indirectly for their Queen that they control is Our Queen that we do not control...

A quick check of our Constitution at Part V - The Executive, at section 36(1) [Executive Authority] “The executive authority of Belize is vested in her Maj- esty.” At 36(2) it continues “Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the executive authority of Belize may be exercised on behalf of Her Majesty by the GG either directly or through offi- cers subordinate to him.” And at 36(3) it states, “Nothing in this section shall prevent the National Assembly from conferring functions on persons or authorities other than the GG.”

The Constitution at Part IV – The GG, at section 30 states, “There shall be a GG of Belize who shall be a citizen of Belize appointed by Her Majesty and shall hold office during Her Majesty’s pleasure and who shall be Her Majesty’s representative in Belize.” At 34(1) it reads, “Where by this Constitution the GG is required to perform any function after consultation with any person or authority he shall not be obliged to exercise that function in accordance with the advice of that person or authority.” 34(4) “Where by this Con- stitution the GG is required to perform any function in accordance with the advice of, or after consultation with, any person or authority, the question whether the GG is so advised shall be conclusive and that function shall NOT be enquired into by any court of law.” If U NEVA KNO – NOW U KNO – “Welcome to the King- dom of Belize! All Hail Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Belize!”

I LOVE YOU BELIZE! FREEDOM FOR ALL WITH EQUAL RIGHTS & JUSTICE!  ●

TRIVIA

Is Your Reasoning Sound?

INSTRUCTIONS: Write your answer on the lines provided.

1. Three friends returned to Belize for a visit and decided to patronize the hotel of an old buddy. The receptionist charged and they paid $10 each. How much did they pay all together? $ ●

2. When the hotel owner found that her huddles were guests, she was delighted. To give them a discount, she gave the receptionist $5 to share equally among the 3 guests. But being a little shrewd on Math and wanting to share equally, the receptionist returned only $1 to each of the 3 guests. How much did each guest finally pay? $ ●

3. How much did the guests finally pay all together? $ ●

4. How much of the $5 did the receptionist keep? $ ●

5. We started this financial transaction with $30 (10 x 3 = 30). We now know that together the guests finally paid $27 (9 x 3 = 27). We also know that the receptionist kept $2 of the $5 she received from the owner that was to be shared among the guests (5 -3 = 2). If we add what the guests finally paid ($27) to what the receptionist kept ($2) we get $29. If we indeed started out with $30 then where is the missing dollar?

LESSON: You may just be asking the wrong questions and getting the right answer.
Setting the Standard for Excellence

Fine Furniture Manufacturers
Wicker - Rattan - Bamboo - Wood - Resin
www.hummingbirdfurnishings.com

Prime Real Estate
Agricultural - Residential
Industrial - Condos
www.hummingbirdprimerealty.com

Auctioneers
Equipment - Consignment
Estate - Foreclosures
www.hummingbirdauctionsbelize.com

Packing & Moving
Local & International

Lumber Processing
Lumber drying, ripping, jointing, planing, & sanding

Factory & Corporate Office:
54 Hummingbird Highway
Belmopan, Belize
Tel. #011-501-822-3164

San Pedro Showroom:
427 Coconut Drive
Ambergris Caye, Belize
Tel. #011-501-226-2960

Placencia Showroom:
760 Maya Beach Layout
North Placencia, SC

E-mail: info@hummingbirdfurnishings.com