

Caymanian Compass

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"Give light and the people will find their own way"

Our Readers Write

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This is an open platform for all points of view, on any topic which concerns our readers. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Caymanian Compass.

Constitutional review

Constitutional debate

People who waited for the big Legislative Assembly debate on the proposed Constitutional changes were disappointed.

The vote was taken only hours after the special Assembly meeting opened yesterday, and, not surprisingly, a majority said 'aye' to accept the Select Committee report which recommends a range of changes.

Efforts to delay the matter did not succeed.

It was pointed out, rightly, that a substantial span of time had been allowed for public consultation. That does not automatically mean, however, that there was enough time.

The Constitutional Review arose out of an impasse over the composition of Finance Committee.

A slew of proposals for change came out of this humble beginning. Many members of the public were somewhat slow to respond to this widening circle of the review.

This took place during a period of time when several other national matters were clamouring for public attention.

It is only within the last few weeks, and particularly after the release of the Select Committee report that many people began to look at these proposals in earnest.

That may have been wrong. They should have taken the matter more seriously before then. Nevertheless, constitutional change must be acceptable to, if not necessarily welcomed with enthusiasm by, the community at large.

No doubt, there will be further debate when a draft constitution is available, setting out the details of the changes that are being proposed. One must hope that members will be receptive to the ideas from members of the public even at that late stage.

One problem remains unsolved - the current MLAs do not have a mandate for constitutional change. They ought to wait to obtain this at the elections next year.

There seems no overwhelming need for rush in this matter.

There are many Caymanians that feel as strongly about the draft Constitutional review as I do. In addition, we are upset and displeased with our Representatives in the Legislative Assembly, who appear to be acting contrary to their own earlier assurances, that any change in our Constitution would be the subject of their election manifesto for the General elections in 1992.

How our present Legislature and Govern-

ment can take licence and allow any change otherwise than in an election forum, is setting the stage for serious local discontentment and the collapse of our security and financial success.

There is no doubt in my mind that some changes are necessary in our present Constitution. However, in my opinion, the suggestions as published in the review, very strongly indicate that there are some people who still

cannot accept the fact, that no form of Government will ever be accepted by Caymanians, other than democracy in the fullest form. The proposals for our new Constitution falls far short of those demands.

It is my suggestion that voters should make urgent contact with all of our Representatives and the Governor on this subject. Should we fail to obtain the necessary assurances, then extend efforts to the

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, any Member of the Parliament of the United Kingdom or any other office, that might be able to assist us from having this unpalatable change forced on us.

It is also suggested that everyone call those same Representatives over and over again until our demands are appreciated and acted on.

Richard E. Arch
MBE JP.