

The Core Values of the PLP

(The PLP Platform published in a paid advertisement in the Nassau Daily Tribune on Monday, October 26, 1953.)

"The Progressive Liberal Party adopts this platform in the conviction that the destiny of the Bahamian people is to build a country in which every citizen can obtain a higher standard of living with the promise of greater social and political freedom."

"We chart our course under the leadership of the Progressive Liberal Party in the abiding belief that it is dedicated to the service of all Bahamians and not to a privileged few, and will prove its superiority over all other parties."

"Ours is the party which has taken on the responsibility to provide a better standard of living for farmers, fishermen, civil servants and all other working classes of the Bahamas and to lead the Bahamian people to the greatest prosperity in their history."

"Ours is the party which promises to build on a solid foundation a sound and stable economy, develop our agriculture and fisheries, invigorate our industries and introduce new ones, provide better roads, transportation and communications throughout New Providence and the Out Islands."

"We deplore the present economic state of the majority of the Out Islands and their inhabitants."

We consider their plight to be a blot on the fair name of British Colonial

administration which had jurisdiction over these islands for over 300 years, and we pledge to devote the greater part of our energies towards alleviating the suffering and poverty of these unfortunate people.

"We reject the principle which is generally accepted that our government exists for the benefit of a privileged few; we pledge to serve the interest of all and not the few; to achieve security and full production from local industries, farming and fisheries and full employment for all."

Principles:

"The government is the servant of the people and not the people the servant of the government."

Government must be administered economically (sic) and effectively and must constantly strive to raise the standard of living of the people. To this end we pledge our wholehearted support."

Domestic Policies:

"The PLP pledges that strong immigration control will be enforced. That while welcoming the outsider who can contribute towards the economy of The Bahamas, there will be no compromise on opposing the influx of foreigners which reduce the earning capacity of the Bahamian."

"The PLP believes that too many persons have

been allowed to enter The Bahamas to take work from our people and that it will take a strong hand to control it."

Labour- Management Relations:

"The rights of the working classes are interwoven with the rights of the employers. They depend one upon the other. Both these rights will be protected under the PLP against exploitation, and consideration will be given for the general welfare of all."

Every man is due a decent living and a decent wage and must be paid sufficient to meet the continual spiraling cost of living. To effect this, every employer is due a good day's work."

"Collective bargaining is regarded by the party as an inherent right to individuals, and individual or union strikes are considered a fundamental right. In this field the PLP will do all possible to promote good will, be impartial, prevent violence and demand respect for the law of the land by the parties concerned. We pledge ourselves to foster good relations between workers and employers and to introduce proper labor legislation for the mutual benefit of all concerned."

Education:

"It is the belief of the PLP that any person with a higher education will

be able to carry out his duties in life better than a person with a lower education and will therefore become a better citizen:

We therefore pledge a higher standard of education for New Providence and the Out Islands; a gradual improvement in the standard of teachers; better buildings and equipment for schools and improved residences for teachers; facilities for organized games and sports wherever possible, and a wider curriculum for schools."

"The PLP maintains that every Bahamian is entitled to the benefits of a good high school education, so we approve of extended government aid to all high schools offering equal opportunities to all Bahamian boys and girls, and filling the proper educational requirements."

Civil and Political Liberties:

"We pledge ourselves to extend the franchise to women as is in force in certain other parts of the world. To enact legislation to improve the voting rights of Bahamians and a further extension of the franchise to all men."

"The party also promises to consider an increase in constituencies and seats in the present House with a view to providing better representation for the people.

"The PLP subscribes to the proposition that all men are born equal. It is therefore our belief that all Bahamians must have the right to live, the right to work, the right to vote, the right to

worship as he sees fit, the right to take part in the administration of his government, and with full and equal protection under the existing laws. We call upon the Bahamian people to support the Progressive Liberal Party in guaranteeing the following basic and fundamental rights to all Bahamians.

"The right of full and equal political participation.

"The right to equal opportunity of employment.

"The right to security of person.

"The right of equal treatment in the Civil Service of The Bahamas.

"The right of peaceful assembly, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of the press.

"The PLP will most strongly fight to obtain an Appeal Court so that all persons will have equal opportunity of appealing from the Supreme Court if he wishes to do so. We will also work toward the attainment of a written constitution that will give Bahamians a greater control over the administration of the affairs of the government, striving ultimately for self-government within the British Commonwealth."

Conclusion:

"We pledge ourselves to fight all organizations that are undemocratic remembering also that each and every Bahamian is entitled to the guarantee of free speech, free press and honest political activity.

"This is our platform.

"These are our principles.

"They form a political and economic policy which will guide our party and our country.

"Under them and with the guidance of Divine Providence we can proceed to higher levels of prosperity and security, under them we advance to a better and fuller life and develop sound leadership in Bahamian affairs which will demand the respect and admiration of all."