



What We Believe Our First Editorial

We are the Press, the “fourth estate”, and that we are called the Free Press is homage to the idea of a free press in a democracy. The Turks and Caicos Free Press was founded on the principle that there ought to be, rightly, more than a single voice from which a free people, wanting enlightenment, should get their news. We can extend that motive specifically by saying: We believe in Constitutional government (and so obviously a free press); we believe in transparency of governmental action, consistent with a free press that receives answers from government; we believe in a market economy, and therefore, we abhor the words “the government gives”, because essentially, governments own nothing, and so cannot give. We like the words, “the government has created the framework”...etcetera, etcetera...because we believe it is better that a man learns to fish, no matter how difficult, than to be given fish. We therefore believe in “opportunity creating” governments. We believe putting people in positions to help themselves is a question, ultimately, of dignity.

We believe in the rule of law, and that order is necessary for freedom. As such, we believe in supporting the officers of the law and the national constabulary along with the courts. We believe the aim of the courts should be justice according to law and the establishment of a “juris-culture”; which is to say a culture based upon lawfulness. We believe the path to prosperity is education

and the proper legal framework in which the courts enforces contracts, and provides remedies for those who risk their capital and their labour.

Additionally, we believe the greatest threats to prosperity are ignorance, poor national healthcare and poverty. We believe in the centrality of the home as the birthplace of discipline, and the sanctity of parenthood. We believe - not to belabour the point - that children are called upon not only to obey but to honour parents. We mention this so specifically, because we believe that the sustained experience of upholding the fifth Commandment actually produces an atmosphere of respect, consideration and the neighbourliness that is central to a constitutional democracy. The law alone is not enough to secure the pleasures of liberty. Personal conscience is as necessary, and we learn to respect those with whom we must live, only in the context of honouring those to whom we owe so much.

We believe profoundly in the maintenance of the environment. Our proposition here is simple. There is only one earth and that destroyed, there is no other. Second, it is no profit to abuse the environment to earn money, then to have to live in the very environment impoverished by our actions. We believe therefore in a sensible balance between development and environmental preservation.

We believe in technological advancement. We will discuss routinely the necessity that

every child in this nation shall not only be literate, but shall master the twelve “Technological Literacies”. We believe in e-Government and e-Business because they are both market led, demand driven phenomena which optimizes the opportunities for participation.

We are bullish on the Turks and Caicos Islands – the birthplace of the angels - and so are committed to defend the nation in foreign policy terms. In this respect, our method of analysis begins with historical and statistical reference points. For instance, to examine the medium term external factors which may impact these islands, we look at the decline in value of the US dollar (a negative), the fact that 77 million Americans are retiring in 6 years (potential positive), that the US currently borrows 80% of the world’s savings (negative) or that nearly USD\$40 trillion dollars will change hands over the next 6-8 years (potential positive).

Every contact with this paper will reflect these beliefs. We are open to changing our minds on issues, but only on the basis of good and sensible arguments. As we are a reserved organization, do not look for us to engage in squabbles of any kind. In moving around the community to meet various members of the local business scene, we encountered, happily, Mrs. Margot March of TCI Bank, who said something we think sums up our approach elegantly: “a paper must be inquiring, but not biased”. We could not have said it better ourselves.