

**DIRECT POLITICAL INTEFERENCE**  
**IN POLICE INVESTIGATION & PROSECUTION**  
**BY THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY**  
**COP v. CPL. 1675 DERECK CASH AND P/C 2889 KRISHNA CAMPBELL**

On Friday, August 27, 2010, P/C 2889 Campbell c/o Tourism Police Unit received information from a source that dangerous drugs and firearms were being kept in a house in the Cable Beach area. The source took him to the location and pointed out the house to him. There was no reason to doubt the source as he had provided information in the past which netted success.

As a result, P/C Campbell contacted Cpl. 1675 Cash c/o Central Detective Unit, a Supervisor who had responsibility to deal with such matters. Cpl. Cash too had no reason to doubt the information from P/C Campbell.

On Wednesday, September 1, 2010 sometime around 6:15am, armed with a duly sworn Search Warrant, Cpl. Cash along with Officers 2790 McPhee, 5062 Miller and P/C Campbell went to the dais residence. The house was located at Devonshire Road, Cable Beach. They left the red and blue revolving light on the unmarked police vehicle flashing, proceeded to the house and knocked on the front door, identifying themselves as police officers. They noticed that the lights were on and saw when a male peered through one of the windows and quickly turned off the lights. A female was peered though the window and they told her it was the police and to open the door but the occupants refused.

They continued to knock and asking the occupants to open the door but the occupants refused. As a result, Cpl. Cash contacted Inspector Benson Cunningham, the Duty officer at Police Control Room and informed him of what was taking place and that his suspicion was further aroused by the occupant's noncompliance. After all efforts proved futile to gain access, Inspector Cunningham instructed the officers to breach entry and that he was send a marked police vehicle to assist them. Two uniformed patrol vehicles arrived shortly.

Upon gaining entry, the officers found the occupants in a bedroom who identified themselves as Veronica Esnada Quarrie a Jamaican live-in maid and the son and daughter of Dr. Isla Grant-Taylor. The officers identified themselves and told them of their reason for being there. A search of the residence was conducted with negative results. Having being informed that Dr. Grant-Taylor was in the area of Goodman's Bay for an early morning walk, a Patrol car was sent there to advise her of the occurrence.

When the patrol car arrived at Goodman's Bay, West Bay Street, they found Dr. Taylor along with Attorney Caryl Antoinette Eileen Lashley, sister of Minister Tommy Turnquest, Minister of National Security. They quickly returned to the residence and were advised of the police action.

It was revealed that Dr. Taylor was a close relative of the Minister who frequented the residence and all their children played and stayed at this residence. Hence, the commencement of direct interference in police matters.

Information received is that Minister Turnquest was called immediately and informed of the incident. He and his family were outraged and he promised swift action against the officers.

Dr. Taylor was advised to make a complaint to the Police Complaints Unit which she did and an internal investigation was conducted.

The facts revealed that:

- (1) The officers were acting on information;**
- (2) They were armed with a properly sworn Search Warrant;**
- (3) They Followed all protocols and exercised extreme patience in seeking to have the occupants open the door;**
- (4) They contacted Police Control Room and advised the Duty Officer before they proceeded any further;**
- (5) They acted on the instructions of the Duty Officer (an Inspector of Police) to breach the door to the residence; and**
- (6) They properly documented every action that was taken, a requirement under Force Orders.**

Nevertheless, the officers were charged with '*Conduct of a Major Nature*' **contrary to the Police Disciplinary Regulations**. If the officers were found guilty, the Commissioner of Police had the authority to immediately dismiss them from the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

The most fascinating aspect of the case was that the particulars of the breach to discipline alleged that the officers:

**“On Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2010 after receiving certain information failed to inform the relevant authorities or other senior Officer-in-Charge of the Central Detective Unit, to which you are attached, you and others executed a Search Warrant on the premises of Isla Grant-Taylor situated at Devonshire Street, Cable Beach and caused damage in the amount of \$1,310.00, which is contrary to discipline, good order and guidance of the Force”.**

Cpl. Cash and Constable Campbell were placed before the Disciplinary Tribunal to answer the major disciplinary charge. The Police Prosecution called a number of witnesses including Dr. Grant-Taylor and her maid, Miss Quarrie. Miss Quarrie made certain admissions but was obviously very cautious regarding who was pushing the prosecution. The police officers were represented by Attorney Keith Bell.

It was apparent that the entire process was a farce and the Disciplinary Tribunal found in favour of the officers on a submission of 'no case to answer'. The Tribunal was astonished that any officer, acting on behalf of the Commissioner of Police, acting on information and more importantly, armed with a valid search warrant could be put in such a position as Cpl. Cash and Constable Campbell.

A review of the case file revealed a number of irregularities but it became apparent that due to the Minister's family relationship and directive, these officers were charged.

The fact that the Tribunal did not call on the officers to respond to the charges showed the weakness in this case but more importantly revealed that no-one is above the law- not even the Minister of National Security and/or his family.  
(see copy of search warrant attached)

BAHAMAS ISLANDS

29/1/10  
COPY

New Providence

To any lawful Constable in the Island of New Providence

WHEREAS it appears to me The Undersigned Esquire,  
one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said island of New Providence

by the information on oath of D/CPL. 1675 CASH

That the following goods, to wit: FIREARMS

of the said  
were feloniously stolen, taken and carried away from

and that the said D/CPL. 1675 CASH  
hath reasonable cause to suspect and doth suspect that the said FIREARMS or part thereof, are

concealed in the premises of ISLER TAYLOR THESE are therefore  
in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, to authorize and require you, with necessary and proper assistants, to enter into the

premises of the said ISLER TAYLOR at NEW PROVIDENCE

aforesaid, and therein diligently search for the said FIREARMS and if the same, or any part thereof, shall be

found upon such search, that you bring the FIREARMS so found, as also the body of the said

ISLER TAYLOR before me, or some other of Her

said Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said Island to be disposed of and dealt with according to law.

GIVEN under my hand and seal, at New Providence

1st day of September

in the year of our Lord 2010

1000-8-57

*M. A. Stubbs*  
J.P.

(SEARCH WARRANT)