

# STATEMENT TO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The Hon. K. H. Randolph Horton, JP, MP

Speaker

Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2015

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The Hon. Michael Dunkley, Premier and Minister of National Security;

The Hon. Marc Bean, Opposition Leader;

Hon. Members of the House of Assembly:

Hon. Members will know, but the public may not understand, that when the Speaker has something to say he speaks from the Chair - and only from the Chair.

It is for this reason that I wish to make the following short statement today.

Standing Order 10(3) makes it clear that, and I quote: "*The Speaker shall not take part in any debate before the House and shall not vote except in a case of a tie, when the Speaker shall give a casting vote.*"

Thus, I did not, I could not participate in the censure motion against myself which was taken up on our last day of meeting. Further, I absented myself from the Chair because I was the subject of the motion of censure.

The same Standing Orders also make it clear that while the Speaker has an overriding duty to maintain and preserve order and decorum in the House, decisions of the Chair can be the subject of appeal by way of a substantive motion.

The Speaker is then ultimately subject to the will and authority of the House.

The House has spoken and I take note of all that was said. We move on with the business of the country.

But there was one matter concerning myself about which I feel I must speak from the Chair today. I believe that it is most important that the Members of this Hon. House and the people of Bermuda know exactly where I stand with respect to that matter.

An allegation was made about myself that is, simply, not true. During the debate on the motion of censure, it was alleged that I had been given and/or that I had accepted a \$45,000 payment

from the One Bermuda Alliance or from some agent of the OBA Government.

No allegation could be further from the truth. For the record, I state categorically and emphatically that I have never received even one cent from the OBA or any agent of the OBA. Those unfounded utterances are just that, unfounded. They are totally, completely and utterly false. Fabrications, nothing more.

Thank you.