

STEMMING AN UNSEEMLY CONFLICT - FEBRUARY 12, 2005

The Catholic Commission for Social Justice is gravely concerned that the Judiciary, the Executive and the Legislature seem to be heading for a collision course that could be disastrous for our already fragile nation.

Charges are being made that there is a plot afoot to remove the Chief Justice from office. This is an extremely serious matter. It has been denied in the Senate by a Government Representative, but it is now an open secret that such action is being taken by some persons. If this is true, this can have serious repercussions on our Judiciary and our nation as a whole.

Protocol seems to have been discarded and it seems that some participants are driven by anger which must be brought under control for the common good. We have to observe the requirements of protocol. We cannot, because we are incensed for some reason - right or wrong, be in breach of protocol.

In law it is said: "He who seeks equity must perform equity." We cannot do even what we consider to be right by the wrong method. It is time to make peace, not war. The situation in TT at the moment is volatile. We shall none of us escape unscathed if we do not halt in our tracks and let good sense prevail. The fall-out for the main players involved could be devastating.

The Judiciary is the last bastion of hope for any society. Our society is not perfect but we must be careful not to send a message to the wider community that strife and conflict is the order of the day at the highest level in our nation. We need to look at the bigger picture. If we allow serious in-fighting at the pinnacle of our society to snowball out of control, the entire country will be smeared as a consequence and be discredited.

This is a matter above and beyond race, religion, politics or any sectional group. The interest of the nation is of paramount importance. There is too much at stake to allow personal conflict at this level to fester. Therefore, in the public interest CCSJ makes a plea for good sense to prevail NOW. Unofficial meetings between persons who may be involved at the highest level in sorting out this matter will prevent any explosion or exposure of unwanted, unbecoming internal strife.

In this Lenten season, we should bring to the fore the best in our character. Christ said: "Blessed are the peacemakers." Why do we persist in making war? If we are all of good intent, then peace can be attained without injustice being done to anyone and the nation be saved from a calamity of an unbecoming squabble at the highest level of our society.

This is the moment when we must all exercise self-control and not let anger drive us to achieve victory in war when it is possible to attain reconciliation in peace. The nation watches with bated breath at the development of this alarming situation. If we truly love our country, then we must stop, think and make peace in the interest of the nation. God bless our nation.