

19. Miss. Mottley responded to the Claimant by saying that she already has a media company in Court for publishing allegations of her embezzling money from the BLP and could easily sue other persons for the same accusations. She vehemently denied assisting his opponent in any way and denied all accusations which the Claimant levelled against her.

20. The Claimant in my view was clearly attacking Miss. Mottley's fitness to be a BLP Member of Parliament, an Attorney-at-Law, a Queen's Counsel and the Political Leader of our Party. I believed that the Claimant's attacks were unjustified. I knew as a fact that Miss. Mottley had herself paid some of my main canvassers to campaign on behalf of some of the same Members of Parliament who were now making accusations against her at the meeting. I believed that Miss. Mottley was the best person to lead the BLP's Parliamentary Team at this time.

21. As any right-thinking politician would have done, I then sought to point out the flaws and inaccuracies of the Claimant's arguments as well as the hypocrisy in what he was saying. I felt it important, too, to enhance the case of the person who I felt stood the best chance of leading our Party to victory in the next General Elections. In the circumstances, I was merely seeking to comment on the Claimant's credibility within the context of his own very harsh and defamatory attacks on Miss. Mottley's character as well as on her suitability and fitness to be the Political Leader of our Party and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

22. I believed that in the absence of such response, there was a real danger that the majority of Members of Parliament present may have relied on the Claimant's allegations and rejected Miss. Mottley as our leader, to the detriment of our Party and ultimately the people of Barbados.

23. As it turned out, the adverse comments which the Claimant made against Miss. Mottley did not prevent her from being elected our leader and, by implication, did not have the effect of lowering her in the estimation of the majority of those present. By the same token what I said about the Claimant, said as it was within the cut and thrust of