

Statement by Shadow Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Walter H. Roban JP MP

Like many Bermudians, the Progressive Labour Party is disappointed that the dispute at the Fairmont Hamilton could not be resolved in a more amicable manner.

The decision by the Fairmont Hamilton Princess to disregard the collective bargaining agreement and make positions redundant without required consultation with the Bermuda Industrial Union is unfortunate.

Unions play a key role in our society; protecting employees from mistreatment, abuse or intolerable working conditions.

We recognize that the BIU has taken this action to ensure that not only will the terms of Collective Bargaining Agreement be adhered to, but also so that the hard fought rights of workers are not rolled backwards

Businesses must respect and adhere to their contracts. The Government must act without fear or favour to their business friends.

The Bermuda Industrial Union has cooperated with the OBA government and the business community, accepting salary cuts and reductions in working hours as seen by the historic memorandum of understanding signed with Government workers.

Let us work together for the good of all Bermudians and resolve this matter quickly and fairly.