

National Crisis — Time For Seaga?

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By **DAVID P. ROWE**

President Obama has been publicly embracing efforts to close all offshore tax havens and offshore jurisdictions from which American businesses seek financial secrecy, or through which American businesses can hide assets or engage in confidential associations beyond the scope of US law enforcement.

President Obama has inferred that many of the offshore jurisdictions with which he is familiar are corrupt and participate hand in hand with enterprises involved in tax-crimes, illegal wire transfers, narcotics and other activities which Americans condemn.

The Obama White House will be looking closely at Jamaica and how it handles a number of extradition requests from the United States Department of Justice, which are designed to destroy Jamaica's regional role as a trans-shipment point for cocaine. Jamaica has a thriving international business sector, which is protected from excessive taxation by a double-taxation treaty between the two countries.

The extradition request for Christopher Coke is going to test both the will of the Obama Administration and the mettle of the Golding Administration. I predict that the Obama Administration will stay the course on the offshore issue using extra-territoriality as a "big stick", which historically Theodore Roosevelt taught them how to use.

My contacts at the State Department and the Department of Justice are unanimous and united on that point. Jamaica will not be permitted to keep a cocaine factory with its own contiguous wharf exporting cocaine directly to the United States. This is what the Coke indictment says that Tivoli Gardens has become.

I wonder if Jamaica will submit itself supinely to the fiat of organized crime? The Most Honorable Edward Seaga was right; maybe this JLP Administration was not ready for government at the time that he was unceremoniously pushed out from leadership of the party. The JLP needs him now more than ever.

David P. Rowe is a Professor at Law at the University of Miami School of Law

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