BAHAMAS PRESS

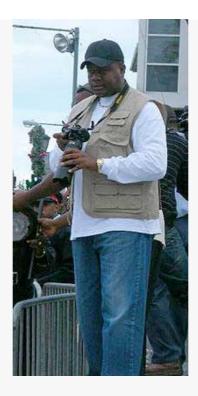## Hubert Flees Parliament as protesters gathered on Bay Street

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Hundreds of Union Members gather to Bay Street in a March on Parliament against the sale of BTC to Cable & Wireless.

Nassau, Bahamas — Rawson Square for but a moment this morning turned into **Tienanmen Square** as police began to cane protesters at the March on Parliament lead by members of the National Congress of Trade Unions (NCTU).

Union members marched to Bay Street in a demonstration against the sale of 51% of BTC to Cable and Wireless. Prominent union leaders, politicos, workers at the Corporation along with members of the public all gathered on Bay Street while Parliament convened its last sitting for the year.

An SIB officer sent to take photos of protesters.

Protesters by 10am lined along Bay shutting down traffic to the square. Police commandos were visible all over the town with some SIB officer evidently taking photos of persons in the crowds.

Shortly after 10am two bus loads of new recruit officers left police headquarters on East Hill Street under police outrider escorts.

Parliament convened with the PM and the DPM laying several amendments on the table of the House. As word got out that the crowd and police were in a clash, the Tommy Turnquest rose on the floor of the House quickly moving a motion suspended Parliament until January 19th.

Prime Minister The Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham was rushed out of the chamber, with ministers hauling and fleeing into their cars as crowds chant, "Hubert is a Coward!" Hubert Ingraham bust out laughing at the protesters as he left Parliament.

Member of the opposition led by PLP leader, **Perry Christie**, joined protesters in the Square and made statements with members of the media.

By 11AM union leaders began a rally in Rawson Square. BTC offices in the Bay Street area were closed for business.

Union leaders along with protestors sit in Rawson Square.

Police and protesters begin to fight for the barricades in the square. Angry citizens removed the barricade from the square forcing police reaction to cane protesters.

BTC Cyber World closed on Bay Street today.

Workers still on the easten side of Rawson Square.

Protesters on the western end of Rawson Square.