
CLOSING REMARKS
13th ANNUAL SHIRLEY PLAYFAIR LECTURE
September 11, 2012
David Miller, Executive Director
FAIR TRADING COMMISSION



Ladies and Gentlemen, I first of all thank everyone for attending and participating in this the 13th lecture in the Shirley Playfair Lecture Series.

Thank you, Minister Hylton for your participation; and for the sterling support of your Ministry, as we work together to foster a culture of competition. I must mention that our parent Ministry continues to operate itself and its Agencies as a team, as a family, as we work closely together, communicating frequently on issues, sharing ideas, assisting each other, and executing our responsibilities. I see here today Miss Harris and Mrs. Williams: – a special thanks to you, Permanent Secretary Budhan and your Staff.

Past Chairman Dr. Gordon, past Commissioner Mrs. Parchment-Brown, and past Executive Directors Mrs. Lee, thank you so much for coming and for continuing to support our work by assisting us in several ways.

Next a very special thank you to our presenter, Professor Evan Duggan who saw this Lecture as an appropriate forum for sharing his views and the views of his UWI Think Tank.

It is heartening to see so many representatives of business enterprises from different sectors here today – it is without a doubt that electricity touches on the lives of all of us. Thank you; and to the rest of the audience, on behalf of the Commissioners and Staff of the Fair Trading Commission I express my sincere gratitude to you for taking the time to be here today; for your attention; for the rich discussion; for the constructive remarks; and for the suggestions that were aired.

I thank also the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel for providing the facilities, the media, specifically Power 106 for bringing this event to the wider public.

To our hardworking and dedicated Commissioners and Staff, a special thank you for your efforts in making this event a success. I must say that successive Commissioners over the years, are committed to continuing the Shirley Playfair Lecture Series.

We recognize that the structure of an industry is an important determinant of the intensity of competition. Industries in which any individual business has less power to control prices are generally more competitive than those in which businesses command such control.

For several years consumers and businesses have expressed growing concerns about the price of electricity and its impact on industry and commerce, and by extension, the growth of our economy. Our Government has been looking closely at the various options and we here at the FTC will shortly be adding our two cents worth in the form of a market study of the sector.

I close with a quote from the comedian George Carlin, who said “When Thomas Edison worked late into the night on the electric light, he had to do it by gas lamp or candle. I'm sure it made the work seem that much more urgent.”

Ladies & Gentlemen, I look forward to seeing you at about the same time next year when we will host our next lecture. Thank you and have a pleasant evening. Please join us for refreshments.