

## TIME FOR ACTION!

The list of obstacles which was submitted by members of the PSOJ was sent to the Prime Minister at his request. As a result he has agreed that a public sector team led by him and a private sector team led by PSOJ President Peter Moses will meet early in September to work out solutions to these problems. The private sector team has already begun its preparations for this crucial meeting. Mr. Moses indicated that this would not be another talk shop. We hope not!

## Labour Reform

Who is a worker?

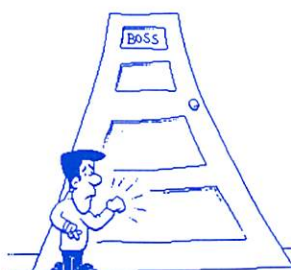
A new definition of this "every-



day" word should be the primary outcome of ongoing discussions between the Jamaica Employers Federation and the Ministry of Labour. The Secretariat will keep you abreast of this and other developments concerning labour relations which could significantly affect your business operations.

## INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The PSOJ participated in the Jamaica Employers Federation/Joint Confederation of Trade Unions (JEF/JCTU) Workshop which was held on July 20 at the Jamaica Conference Centre. The theme for the day was "Meeting Global Challenges Through Effective Labour Management Relations". The presentations and discussions focussed on how successfully trade unions and management were able, in some instances, to work together to arrive at an agreement which was in the best interest of all concerned. The renowned Manley Accord/Memorandum of Understanding, the Agreement in the Shipping Industry as well as the National Water Commission Memorandum of Understanding were the primary examples used throughout the Seminar. What was highlighted in all the discussions was that trust, openness and honesty were some of the elements critical to the success of those negotiations. An important lesson to be learnt by all participating in labour negotiations!



## CRIME

In response to the upsurge in crime in June and July, PSOJ President and members of the Executive had an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss the need for those charged with the responsibility for national security to implement measures to curb what seemed to have been an almost uncontrollable situation. The Prime Minister used the opportunity to reiterate his own commitment to doing whatever was necessary to reduce the intolerable level of criminal activity in the society. He also reviewed with the private sector team, some of the steps which would be taken by the JCF and the JDF to restore calm and peace. These included allocating additional resources to Crime Stop which would be used to fund the 'reward for guns' campaign. Let us hope that the measures will meet with rapid success!



## LOME

PSOJ Executive Director Charles Ross represented the Organisation in Brussels at a hearing on the participation of civil society in the post Lome trade and aid agreement. The meeting attracted participants from NGOs from the ACP and the EU countries as well as officials from the European Commission. One of the recommendations emanating from those discussions was that civil society should be allowed to directly approach the EU re accessing aid under the post Lome agreement. A brief report on the deliberations in Brussels is available from the PSOJ Secretariat.

## What's Ahead!

**September 17** Membership Breakfast/Seminar  
Venue: Terra Nova Hotel  
Speaker: Prof. Howard Stein, Roosevelt University, Chicago  
Topic: Re-thinking Growth and Stabilization Policies in Developing Countries: Beyond False Dichotomies

**September 30** "Meeting of the Movers, A Soirée with the Shakers!"  
Venue: PSOJ Secretariat

## PSOJ/CLAA SEMINAR

*Issues discussed included the financial and productive sectors dialogue, the banking sector outlook as well as long and short term strategies for surviving the liquidity crises.*

The PSOJ joined the CLAA (Caribbean/Latin American Action) in hosting a successful seminar on July 28 at Le Meridien Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. A distinguished group of local and overseas presenters focussed on the theme: "Meeting the Financing Needs of Jamaican Businesses in the New Millennium". Issues discussed included the financial and productive sectors dialogue, the banking sector outlook as well as long and short term strategies for surviving the liquidity crises. Frank and insightful presentations and discussions were characteristic of the day's proceedings. Presenters included the Hon. Errol Ennis, (Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Planning), the Hon. John Issa O.J., C.D., (SuperClubs' Chairman), Sir Neville Nicholls (President of the Caribbean Development Bank) and Ms. Deborah Moronese (U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation). The feedback from those in attendance? Interesting presenters/discussants. . .enthusiastic participants. informative. . .successful.

## Condolences

Our deepest sympathy to Honorary Secretary Richard Byles who lost his father this month.