

Remarks by Fred Mitchell MP

PLP Rally R.M. Bailey Park

Nassau, 5th May 2012

I believe in The Bahamas

I believe in Bahamians first.

Since today is Cinco de Mayo, I salute you in Spanish by saying: buenos noches.

I wish to speak directly to the people of Fox Hill this evening. I thank you for the honour of serving you for ten years and I humbly ask for your vote on Monday 7th May. Together we have done great things. Together there is a great deal to be done.

I wish to report to this gathering and the Bahamas that Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham came to Fox Hill this morning and he got exactly what he came for.

He left Fox Hill this morning with his tail between his legs. His supporters in their red shirts are wondering what happened - why he disappeared so fast from that stage.

I want to thank the people of Fox Hill for standing up for their rights. Without any prompting from me, they gathered in their scores and told Mr. Ingraham it was time to get out of Dodge.

But there is a lingering question which appeared on a billboard that they posted in Fox Hill this morning. The question is: In ten years what did Fred Mitchell do in Fox Hill. I want to answer that question for the FNM's candidate.

You see, I had heard that despite her record in the long jump, the only thing she can do today is jump to conclusions and false conclusions at that.

You have to forgive the FNM candidate for Fox Hill because she has been gone from Fox Hill for thirty years and has not participated at all in the life of the Village.

What I know is that in the 15 years I have been working in Fox hill, I have not seen her to one Fox Hill Day celebration.

So if she loved Fox Hill so much why was she never there.

But I would ask her to simply speak to her campaign workers about what I have done.

I have helped them and I will give three examples tonight.

The lady who drives you around lost her job because the Prime Minister and the road programme forced the closure of her employer Robin Hood. Ask her who wrote the Ministry of Education on her behalf to ask for the job as a janitress at Sandilands Primary School?

Ask the coach who sat with you at the advanced poll? Ask him how I visited him while he served an 18 month sentence of imprisonment. How I lobbied the Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy successfully to have his sentence reduced and him released from prison early. Ask him who visited him while in prison when his FNM friends abandoned him? Ask him who wrote the U.S. to try to get his visa to visit the United States back? Ask him what I did.

Thirdly, ask the one who hosted the birthday party and who hosted the fundraiser for you what I did? Ask her who wrote and petitioned and cajoled her colleagues Kenneth Russell, former Minister of Housing and Bensil Rolle to fix the sinking houses in that subdivision.

I hate this aspect of politics: the lies and the deceit.

The question for the FNM candidate in Fox Hill is where have you just come from?

They told me that the FNM said that they would give them 2000 dollars in their hands and one thousand dollars per day until the general election if they switch sides. One of them told me Mr. Mitchell: "I am a man; I cannot be bought."

This is reminiscent of the period 1910 when there was open voting in The Bahamas. You got half a sack of flour before you voted, you declared who you were voting for and if it were the right person you got the second half of the sack of flour. Milo Butler fought to have that voting abolished and it was done in 1949.

The dreaded UBP tried the same tactic years later - one of them was caught buying votes in an outside toilet in Grants Town.

Now today after the rules have changed making that a criminal offence, here is the FNM bringing back this insidious practice again. It is shameful.

Fox Hill is a village of free men and women and the ancestors would be proud of all of those young men who stood up to the naked attempt by the FNM to buy votes.

Now about the future, the housing stock of Fox Hill has been allowed to deteriorate under the Free National Movement. When the PLP is returned to office, the programme of house repairs will begin forthwith to get those roofs repaired that leaked under last week's rain. I promise you. We did it before, we will do it again.

We will construct a pre-school at the Sandilands Primary School.

We intend to put the country back to work and make sure that women and men have their dignity restored by having honest work and being able to invest in this country and make a living for you and your family. We did it before, we can do it again.

National Health Insurance will be brought into Force and men can take care of the expenses of prostate cancer and the same for women with breast cancer.

BTC will come back into Bahamian hands by the purchase of the majority shares from the present foreign owners.

Finally, I wish to report on a meeting that I had with the Rev. C.B Moss last evening. I asked him and his family who live in my area to forgive all the slights that we may have caused rightly or wrongly, inadvertently, negligently, by act or omission.

He has agreed to support us without conditions, but says that his family like all other families who support us want to see some tangible results for their support.

I agree and you have my solemn promise to work hard and be worthy of your support. Thank you C.B. and welcome back my friend.

My campaign for re-election ends this evening and now it is time to get the votes into the box.

I am deeply grateful to the whole team of PLPs that have fought and walked with me and danced and cried and laughed in this campaign.

When we win, this will be your victory and I will go to the people's house with that in mind.

I leave you then with this. On the evening of 7th May let us hope that the Bahamian people will see the end of the Ingraham nastiness and bitterness. The use of the

state apparatus to harass PLP's and the personal attacks on our leader are nothing short of an insidious attempt for five more years to destroy the people's movement which the PLP is.

The PLP is not just a political party. It is the spirit of freedom which began with Pompey when he revolted in Exuma and refused to go.

The PLP embodies the spirit of the Bahamian people for freedom, justice and economic opportunity that could cause us to move from Bain Town to Eastwood.

The PLP is not a perfect organization. It is made up of imperfect people who always try to be on the side of the people. This almost always puts the PLP on the right side of history.

The election of the PLP will not bring a perfect solution. Our system promises that if the party that is in power is performing poorly then at election time, the choice is the other party. Right now the right choice is the PLP.

We have had our wilderness moment: five years forged by the fires of opposition, chastened by the hard knocks of the lack of power; sharpened by the steely battles of the market place of ideas and public opinion.

The PLP is back.

Thank you for the inspiration of our friends who run the PLP's war room and their tireless efforts to keep us on time and on message.

Forgive me the overtime but I had to get this in. You have done a yeoman's job.

May God grant all our voters the wisdom and the understanding in their deliberations and decisions on 7th May and may he rest upon your counsels.

God bless you! Bless the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

PLP! PLP! PLP!

End