

REMARKS BY FRED MITCHELL MP\

FOX HILL

PLP BRANCH MEETING FT. CHARLOTTE

OAKES FIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010

THE PLP'S COMMITMENT

Billie Holiday, the American jazz songstress, sings "Hush Now Don't Complain".

If there were a text tonight, I would say that this is the text: "hush now don't complain".

It is long past the time of grieving for the loss of 2007. We must work while it is day because night comes when no man can work.

We quite simply have our backs against the wall. We have no choice. Our country has so many crises; one hardly knows where to start.

The PLP has some touch choices to make but make them it must.

But first and foremost, the decision we have to make is whether or not we are prepared to stand up for ourselves, our legacy and for the future of our country.

The Greenburg report commissioned by Philip Davis MP in 2007 following the general election told us that we lost the votes in every category in 2007 of age group and economic demographic save and expect those over sixty five and those with a high school education or less.

Their advice to us was: a party that sits in a country that is getting richer and more educated must reverse that demographic or die.

While the economy has gotten worse, the Prime Minister has been able to buy peace in our time by using up the nation's credit. A prospective PLP government faces the daunting prospect of a country whose credit is maxed out and tapped out; that if a PLP government comes to office there will be every little room for the social and infrastructural spending which is required.

One person pointed out that there is a restructured loan that comes due for BEC which will require a payment on principal of \$100,000,000 in August 2012. That is just one example of what we face. So a PLP government coming in will have to put a resolution forward to borrow that \$100,000,000 to pay off an Ingraham initiated debt.

The government proposes to get rid of BTC on fire sale terms. This must be opposed. This is a wholesale transfer of wealth to non Bahamians with no compensating benefits.

Crime is out of control and crime becomes a political issue when a government is unable to ease the tension and the fears in the society over the issue.

We have had to badger the government to bring new investment. The Prime Minister's conduct in settling the terms of the Bahamar investment was and continues to be reprehensible. He has not defended the country's honour in responding appropriately to Sol Kezner of Atlantis who in my view interfered in the politics of our country by an unseemly and inaccurate attack on the PLP. It is the Prime Minister's responsibility to stand up for our country.

The PLP of old would know how to deal with threats from bullies. Why would an investor threaten to close and investment and out at risk 8000 jobs and then blame it on the PLP when the PLP is not in power?

So the hard choice we have to make is whether we want to win or whether we don't. The evidence is there that we have the people ready willing and able to give us a second chance. Do we have the fire in the belly to do what it takes to win?

This is not about saying that the economy is so bad, crime is bad that the people will simply turn to us in desperation. There must be the right policy mix. The young people have to buy into what we are doing and saying. We have to organize the voters to register, and then leave to get them to the polls.

Is there the fire in the belly? I have the fire.

The people know we care for them and look out for their interest. We can point out our work with straw vendors, our defence of scores of police, customs and immigration officers were sent packing unceremoniously by the Prime Minister.

I ask you therefore tonight to join me in committing ourselves to winning? We must now what is necessary to win? The country expects disciplined, forward thinking organization that is dedicated to taking care of our country and its people. We cannot slunk or seem to be slunking.

This means that those who lead us have a special responsibility to lead from the front and by example.

I hope that all of us will join in that commitment.

Remember don't complain. Just work.

Thank you very much indeed.

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