

Notes for Fred Mitchell MP Fox Hill  
*On Ryan's Victory*

Tonight, we have much to be thankful for. Congratulations to Ryan Pinder, his family and the team that put together this victory. To God be the glory.

We have proven that we are still the best little country in the world by the simple acts of voting on 16th February, and then, when there was a dispute between the sides, going to court and winning in the court.

We fought hard. The battle was fierce. Duane Sands lost, the FNM lost. Ryan Pinder won, the PLP won. But no one has taken to the streets to shoot and kill and spread blood. The contest is over, we move on to the next item on the agenda.

The PLP is back. It has the fire in the belly. Our joining this contest has shown that political parties fight elections: win, lose or draw.

This election victory has sent a message to the Prime Minister; that the best-laid plans don't go according to plan. It should teach him to learn how to control his big fat mouth and stop trying to manipulate and control. It should also send a message; that there is a way a Prime Minister is supposed to behave. He is supposed to have a bridle on his mouth.

Let us tonight say a special thank you to Philip 'Brave' Davis for his yeoman's effort in mounting this case. He performed magnificently. Who would have thought that the court would agree that all five votes should count?

When the decision was announced today, I thought of Paul Adderley, the Attorney General under Sir Lynden Pindling who has always argued that a voter should never be disenfranchised, that the state ought to bend over backwards to ensure that the voter has his right to vote protected. The decision today vindicates his arguments, which I first heard way back in 1982 or thereabouts. This is the law as a living thing.

We have a fresh start with Ryan Pinder's election to Parliament. It means that the people have signalled that they are willing to give us another opportunity to govern. Now it is up to us, all of us in the Parliamentary fraternity and sisterhood to lead the PLP to victory in the next general

election.

We must recommit ourselves to the discipline that we displayed in this bye-election, to the new ideas and to the new faces that will encourage the public to vote for us.

We have to bring health care and national health insurance to Bahamians. We have to introduce a national pension plan. We have to restore the economy of the country. We have to find jobs for our young people. We have to start the money coming into the country again.

I wish to pledge myself tonight along with the people of Fox Hill to helping the PLP win in 2012 or whenever the next general election is called. I am prepared to do anything lawfully within my power to help the PLP win. I pledge my family's support.

I hope that this is the beginning of the end for Hubert Ingraham and the FNM. This is a national humiliation for him and his party. He tried to manipulate the political process and ended up with egg on his face.

Let us also tonight congratulate all of our leaders, the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie, for putting together the team of Bernard Nottage MP and Obie Wilchcombe MP and Bradley Roberts, the Chairman and for finding the money to fight this election. Let us thank all those generous donors who gave of their time and their money to make this possible.

I think this victory is also a message to young people. There is room in the PLP for you. But you must fight because power concedes nothing without a demand. You must fight for what you want and you have a staunch ally in me.

I think Ryan Pinder will make a good representative and I look forward to working with him.

Welcome aboard.

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