

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this very worthwhile resolution, honoring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM BOHEN
UPON BEING NAMED "IRISHMAN
OF THE YEAR" BY GOIN' SOUTH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand here today to recognize William Bohem, a man who is being honored as "Irishman of the Year" on March 11, 2006 by Goin' South, a civic, social, and cultural organization based in South Buffalo, New York.

Bill Bohem is an upstanding citizen, a proud member of the South Buffalo community of which I am a lifelong resident. And like me, Bill shares a love for the people and the place that has made us who we are today.

Bill's ancestors came from Ireland and settled in the Old First Ward. His father Daniel Bohem was a Buffalo Firefighter; his late mother was Milly Ahearn.

Bill Bohem began his career as an apprentice in 1975 with Ironworkers Local 6—and he quickly rose through the ranks as a Board Member, Executive Committee President, and to his current position as Business Agent/Financial Secretary.

Ironworkers Local 6 is one of the most influential trade unions in Western New York. Its members participated in the construction of HSBC Arena, Buffalo's Baseball stadium, Pilot Field (now Dunn Tire Park), waterfront housing at Admiral's Walk and the Galleria Mall. It is also important to note that Bill led Local 6 members to New York City to assist with rescue efforts just hours after the tragedy of September 11th.

Bill's kindness is reflected in the generosity of Local 6 and the willingness of its members to pitch in when it comes to charitable and civic causes in and around South Buffalo. They have volunteered on such projects such as the Valley Community Center and Bishop Timon/St. Jude High School.

Irish Americans represent what is best about America—that if you work hard, play by the rules, love your family and give back to your community, the American Dream can be yours. Bill Bohem is a citizen worthy of that description.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to recognize Bill Bohem, a great guy from the neighborhood, a friend and a man deserving of this special recognition. It is my distinct honor to join with Bill's sisters—Nancy and Patty—his brother Danny—his two sons Bill Jr. and Eric and his wife Mary Jo and numerous other family members and friends to honor the personal accomplishments, leadership and hard work of a great son of South Buffalo.

INTRODUCING THE TRADE SANCTION AVOIDANCE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Trade Sanction Avoidance Act—legislation that will stop American manufacturers from facing \$809 million in annual trade sanctions from the European Union.

On February 12, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Appellate Body—for the third time—found that U.S. corporate tax laws violate WTO rules. We failed to fix the flawed foreign sales corporation (FSC) regime with extra-territorial incentive (ETI) scheme. Now we've failed once again to fix the ETI with incentives in the JOBS Act. According to the WTO, the transitional and grandfathered tax breaks in the JOBS Act continue to violate WTO rules. This foolishness must stop now.

I've heard many members of this august body talk about how the U.S. must stand up and be a leader in the world. How can we expect other countries to take us seriously as a world leader when this Congress continually undermines and ignores rules we've agreed to live by?

We refuse to join the International Criminal Court, we won't sign the Kyoto Treaty, and we pulled out of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Given our track record, is it any wonder the EU continues to bring WTO cases against our non-compliant corporate tax break schemes? We've broken these rules time and time again, and if we don't pass my bill, American manufacturers will pay the price.

The EU reacted to the WTO decision by asserting its right to impose retaliatory duties against U.S. exports. Those duties apply to a broad range of goods, and could reach 17 percent by September. If Congress fails to act, U.S. corporations will pay \$809 million a year in retaliatory sanctions.

The Trade Sanction Avoidance Act will put an end to this game of international tax chicken. By repealing the transitional and grandfathered tax breaks in the JOBS act, Congress will ensure American manufacturers avoid hundreds of millions in unnecessary trade sanctions. This approach is so inherently reasonable; some may wonder why anyone would oppose it.

Unfortunately, in the current culture of corruption, protecting tax breaks for big corporations is more important than protecting farmers and small manufacturers from hundreds of millions in trade sanctions. For example, Boeing alone stands to rake in over \$600 million from the JOBS Act tax breaks. My legislation protects farmers and small manufacturers from these sanctions so that they can remain competitive in the European Union marketplace. Boeing—which made \$2.56 billion in net profit last year—should be willing to give up at least a portion of its tax break to help protect American businesses from sanctions and to help our tax code comply with the WTO rules we've agreed to live by.

We can't claim to help American businesses on one hand, while turning our backs on them by failing to fix this problem. This bill is a simple solution to a problem we should have solved years ago. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PORTIA
SIMPSON-MILLER ON HER ELEC-
TION AS PRESIDENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY AND
PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Portia Simpson-Miller, who has been elected president of the People's National Party in Jamaica and will become the first female Prime Minister of Jamaica at the end of the month and to enter into the RECORD an editorial and news story both published in the New York CaribNews hailing her victory.

The election of Ms. Simpson-Miller is a milestone. As the first female Prime Minister Designate, Ms. Simpson-Miller has been a passionate, longtime voice for the oppressed. Her career in politics has spanned three and a half decades most recently as vice president of the PNP since 1978 and president of the PNP Women's Movement since 1983. Her previous assignments also include several Cabinet portfolios—serving as a Minister of Labour, Welfare and Sport and a Minister of Local Government, Community Development and Sport. By serving her people diligently, she has earned the right to succeed Mr. P.J. Patterson, the island's longest serving Prime Minister.

Simpson-Miller represents the vanguard of women succeeding in politics throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, changing the political and social landscapes in places such as Chile and Peru. As she sought to become Prime Minister of Jamaica, Ms. Simpson-Miller's campaign focused on themes of empowerment for the marginalized and uniting all classes to tackle deep-rooted problems of crime and economic underdevelopment.

Simpson-Miller is a Jamaican success story; an iconic figure who has become a metaphor for the hopes and aspirations of poor, underprivileged black people, particularly black women. Her victory has yielded an outpouring of praise from Jamaicans living throughout the world, including in my home city of New York who, as is seen in the following article, hailed and celebrated her victory. She is a woman of faith, conviction and of the people—traits that will surely be needed to effectively address the problems of entrenched poverty and crime and enhance employment opportunities for youth.

Mr. Speaker, again I rise to congratulate Ms. Portia Simpson-Miller as she ascends to the post of Prime Minister in Jamaica and to commend her on her genuine commitment to the people of the island.

PORTIA SIMPSON-MILLER HAILED AS NEW
LEADER

(By Tony Best)

If there is something called national euphoria then it best describes the reaction of Jamaicans at home and abroad to the victory of Portia Simpson-Miller in the fight to lead the ruling People's National Party and Jamaica itself.

For in the Caribbean nation, the news that Simpson-Miller had won the vigorous and potentially divisive battle for the PNP's Presidency and the Prime Minister's job triggered an outpouring of praise and celebrations for the victory. In the Diaspora, from New York,

Miami and Toronto to London and the cities where hundreds of thousands of Jamaicans live in North America and the United Kingdom, the response was the same: overwhelmingly positive.

Whether they were religious ministers, elected officials, health care professionals and administrators, business executives or working men and women, the reaction was the same: the best person has won and Jamaica's government should be in good hands.

The Rt. Rev. Don Taylor, Episcopal Vicar Bishop of the New York Diocese of the Anglican Church, saw her election and elevation to the Prime Minister's office in a few weeks time as a "great day" for the women of Jamaica.

"It's a great day when we have reached that point in our history where a woman can take on the reins of leadership of Jamaica," he said. "As I have done in the past, I will do everything to support her, because in supporting her I am really supporting Jamaica."

Not only did Yvonne Graham, Brooklyn's Deputy Borough President, followed along Bishop Taylor's path by pledging support to the Prime Minister-designate, now that the election battle was over but hailed the choice and the significance of a woman heading the government for the first time in the 43-plus years of Jamaica's independence.

"I am just absolutely excited that the election of a woman to lead the country has happened in my own hometown and in my lifetime," was the way Graham put it. "I have watched her political career over the years and I know she will make an excellent, excellent Prime Minister. Many of the Jamaicans in the Diaspora with whom I have spoken since the weekend election by the PNP delegates share my elation. I look forward to her leadership and pledge my support in any way that I can to help move Jamaica forward. She is a competent and very popular public figure and has the experience in Government. She is in tune with the people of Jamaica, from top to bottom."

Graham believes Simpson-Miller would bring knowledge of the "grass roots" and her own record as a "people-person" to the job as leader of the Government. "She understands the needs of the masses and she has a tremendous ability to surround herself with people who can get the job done," added the Deputy Borough President. "One can expect that she would build on the legacy of the current Prime Minister, P.J. Patterson. After all, she has been there for a long time in government, has seen it from the vantage point of different capacities and ministries and knows how to motivate people."

New York State Assemblyman Nick Perry, who represents a large East Flatbush District in the legislature in Albany, the State capital, said that by electing a woman to lead the country, the PNP has reinforced Jamaica's track record of "treating women with equality" and respect.

"We not only claim to be a country where women are treated equally or have access to the same positions and treatment as our men, but we have actually demonstrated that in our action," Perry stated. "The success of Portia Simpson-Miller's campaign for the leadership of the ruling PNP says quite clearly to the world that we are in the forefront when it comes to the treatment of women."

Beyond issues of gender, Perry credited Simpson-Miller's work ethic, her drive to succeed and determination to lift herself up by her own efforts for the victory over Dr. Peter Phillips, Dr. Omar Davies, and Dr. Karl Blythe.

"She didn't come from a background of someone who was born with a golden spoon," he added. "She came from among folks who lived and earned their way. Her parents

worked hard to give her an education and she made good use of the opportunities. In essence, she won the election, the old fashioned-way, she earned it."

Assemblyman Perry believes her popularity and her badge to the "masses of Jamaicans" would enable her to form a government and provide the leadership Jamaica needs at this time of its development.

"She will bring the experience of a person who came from among the common people, knowing the have-nots in Jamaica from the time she was a child to her current status in government, one can expect the understanding and empathy that flow from such a background," he added.

Dr. Donna Facey, a physician who heads the Caribbean-American Medical and Scientific Association of the United States, is looking to her country's new leader to solidify Jamaica's place in the Caribbean integration movement.

"Joining the bulwark of leadership of the region that's going to take the Caribbean Single Market and Economy into the next 50 years, she will be well-placed to make her mark on Jamaica and on the wider Caribbean," said Dr. Facey.

"Although the campaign within the PNP wasn't strictly about the CSME, if Jamaica and the Caribbean are to survive in a global economy then the CSME would be crucial to future success. As a public figure who is in touch with the common men and women, she can be expected to work closely with the other Caribbean leaders to ensure that the CSME is a success."

Vangalane Hunter, a health care administrator and a member of the Board of the Caribbean Women's Health Association in New York City said that Simpson-Miller would have her "hands full" as she attempts to address the economic and social needs of her country.

"Hopefully, she would be able to go into the job as Prime Minister and try to do something about the problems and challenges facing Jamaica," she said. Jamaicans in both the UK and Canada responded with equal confidence in Simpson-Miller's ability to tackle the job head-on and to succeed.

"Portia is a woman of great experience," said Philip Mascoll, President of the Jamaica Diaspora Canada Foundation. "She should be judged by her performance, not by the fact that she is a woman."

[From the Carib News, Feb. 28, 2006]

PORTIA SIMPSON-MILLER, THE PEOPLE'S AND PNP CHIEF TO LEAD JAMAICA CAPTURES PARTY PRESIDENCY IN WEEK-END VOTE

Charismatic, the "people's choice," and a woman and a leader for the times facing Jamaica.

A handful of the glowing and well deserved tributes being lavished on Portia Simpson-Miller by Jamaicans from all walks of life, whether at home or abroad following her stunning victory over Dr. Peter Phillips, Dr. Omar Davies and Dr. Karl Blythe in the bruising campaign for the presidency of the ruling People's National Party and ultimately the leadership of the country.

Simpson-Miller has earned the right to succeed P.J. Patterson, Jamaica's longest serving Prime Minister, the old fashioned way: she worked hard for it, not simply within the party but in the government and among the people. The term used most often to describe her, long before the leadership race began was a "woman of the people," a person from the grassroots who understands Jamaicans, feels their pain, exults in their triumphs and knows what makes them tick.

Obviously, those qualities worked for her during most of her adult life and should continue to be the pillars on which she moves

forward as Prime Minister, the first woman to hold the job. Simpson-Miller's experience in the labor movement, in successive cabinets, and in mobilizing the PNP's rank and file enabled her to stand out in the crowded field of rivals and should help her to chart a national economic and social agenda with the consent, of the governed.

Clearly, she is more than prepared for the vital task as Jamaica's Prime Minister.

However, no one should under-estimate the challenges she faces. When the delegates gave her a comfortable victory of 1,775 votes to those of her nearest rival, Dr. Phillips' who received 1,538, they recognized that not only was she the most popular political figure in the country but she was quite capable of providing the leadership the nation needs as it seeks to further stabilize its economy, reduce inflation, slash the incidence of crime, create opportunities for its youth, build confidence and make the country an enjoyable and livable place for all of its citizens.

During the run-up to last week-end's election, the delegates had ample opportunities to assess the qualities of the main contenders and they took a collective decision that the party and the government needed Simpson-Miller now more than ever before. Undoubtedly, they have their eyes on the next election and decided that her popularity with the masses, her political savvy and experience in government made her the best person to carry them and the PNP to victory whenever the campaign bell rings.

But some things must happen before that. After the divisive campaign, the PNP president-elect and the Prime Minister-designate and her competitors must bury the proverbial hatchet and work hard to heal wounds opened up by the leadership fight. The fact that she had the support of only a handful of her ministerial cabinet colleagues and a minority of PNP parliamentarians has increased the burden on Simpson-Miller. But few doubt she can't bring most if not all sections of the party together. She must use her appeal within the rank and file to forge a unified party. That's vital if she is to make a fundamental difference.

Simpson-Miller would be the first to tell anyone that she can't run Jamaica alone and would need the full cooperation of every sector, beginning with the party and going into the larger community—business, the church, labor, civil society, the middle class, working class, the youth and the elderly.

Clearly, she can bring the nation together behind a shared vision designed to take Jamaica forward, not by rhetoric but by solid action and clear thinking.

Jamaicans of all walks of life, whether at home or in North America, the United Kingdom, the Caribbean wherever have already signaled that they are eager to join forces with their new leader.

Judging from their reaction to her victory, Jamaicans in the Diaspora who are a linchpin to the island's continued development and who routinely put aside partisan political differences when opportunity and necessity knock, have full confidence in Simpson-Miller's government. The tens of billions of dollars, which they have sent back to families, are but one example of their commitment to Jamaica. Their technical expertise in a variety of fields which many of them currently put at the government's and the country's disposal is another.

A leading daily paper in Kingston pointed out a few days ago, immediately after Simpson-Miller's victory that violent crime "must be dealt with if we are to build a prosperous and vibrant society for all our people."

We couldn't agree more.