

**BETTER TO HAVE NO GOVERNMENT, AT ALL,  
THAN ONE, BENT OF APPLYING FETTERS TO THE PRESS**

There is no such thing as being a little pregnant: The female is pregnant; or, she is not pregnant.

The same is true of censorship: There is no such thing as having a little censorship: There is censorship; or, there is not censorship.

It is not a grey area, as Mr Ronald Arculli, Vice Chairman, The Liberal Party, would have the world believe: It is, strictly, only a matter of black and white.

The old '*foot-in-the-door*' principle applies to censorship: Once the door ajar, it is open.

What is, perhaps, surprising about those statements, credited to Mr Wang Feng Chao, Deputy Director, Central Government Liaison Office, the People's Republic of China at the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), is that many people in the HKSAR appeared to be surprised, at all.

Any rational and sensible person should have known that the PRC Government demands its population to adhere to blind allegiance to its political principles, all political principles, right or wrong.

The British Government advocated similar principles only a few short years ago, with the rallying call: '*Right or Wrong, King and Country.*'

Mr Wang Feng Chao made oblique and direct references to the Taiwan issue with regard to the matter of the island's stated intent to attempt to attain official and sanctioned independence from the PRC.

He stated, in so many words, that the Press of the HKSAR should be mindful of the political requirements of the PRC State and fashion objective reports in order '*to defend the integrity and sovereignty of the country (the PRC) ...*'.

Put another way: If the HKSAR Press is covering a speech, the contents of which is contrary to the edicts of the PRC Government, then the members of the HKSAR Press either should not report the speech, or, if they are determined to report it, then the objective report must advocate that Taiwan is wrong and the PRC Government is right.

He said: '*The media should be responsible for the unification of the nation and safeguard the nation's territorial integrity ... not promote 2 States theory or independence of Taiwan ... should not cover speeches, promoting the independence of Taiwan or splitting of the country in the same way as ordinary news, or treat them as difference voices ...*'.

The translation, into simple English, of what Mr Wang Feng Chao was saying, was that the members of the HKSAR Press should take a political stand, if they want to report, objectively, on political matters, and that that stand must be the stand, as laid down by the National People's Congress.

**Blind Allegiance: A Cancer**

Blind allegiance is a cancer on any society; it leads to intellectual myopia of its population.

Which is excellent for an authoritarian government, bent on controlling its human population, one might suppose.

Censorship has been thrashed and thrashed in the United States of America, and it is now widely accepted that it is best not to have any censorship since that is, after all, in the best interests of society when looked at in the brightness of enlightened day.

In the south of the US, the Baptist Church will, one day, come under a great deal of fire, for the power of this Church is such that, if any member of the media dares to invoke its wrath, then advertising for that medium would dry up at the stroke of a pen and the circulation of that medium would shrink in a matter of days.

In addition, the Church would inform its faithful that no member should read, or be seen reading, the offending medium, subject to being ostracised from the Church.

The US Deep South -- South Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, etc -- still believes in the presence of the Devil Incarnate; and, leaders of the Church still claim that there are covens of witches who dance round a bonfire in the dead of night when the moon is high, in the hope of invoking the Dark One -- Beelzebub, Belial, the Denizen of Hell, etc.

Sitting in the company of civilised and erudite individuals, far away from the US Deep South, one may laugh at the statements and antics of these misinformed Church fools, but, for the millions of people, who attend the Churches of the Deep South: *'Be on your guard for the Devil lurks in your backyard!'*

The Deep South preys on fear, on the ignorant and the innocent: That is the Church's strength.

And millions of white and black folk in the Deep South follow the dictates of the Church's leaders -- sadly.

That the Church has played a very positive role in moulding modern man is unquestionable.

The Church, in and of itself, is good, with lofty principles of the first order. Of that, there can be no question.

So much has the Church influenced modern man that it is true to state that no successful civilisation has lasted any appreciable length of time without the majority of that society, believing in an omnipotent being -- a god, or gods, who made the world and man.

The Church has been a wonderful asset in moulding civilisations of the world, as well as being a terrible deficit to modern man.

This paradox appears not to have been well appreciated.

The Church attempted, and was successful for many hundreds of years, to control its followers by keeping from them as much erudition as was possible.

As late as the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, it was proscribed by law that copies of the Bible should be in the hands of the laity of Catholic Canada.

From about 1650 to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, the Bible's meaning was jealously guarded by the Church elders who appointed its priests to spread the word of the Gospel, as interpreted by the Papal Commission.

Rule by ignorance and fear was the way that the word of God was spread until the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in Canada.

The *'back'* of the Church was broken as education became universal and the printed word became available to all.

In the PRC, today, while there is reported to be a high degree of literacy, there is a very low degree of perspicacity among the population.

This has come about due to centuries of the people of the PRC, being kept in ignorance -- in the same way that the Western Church leaders kept the laity in ignorance.

And the PRC Government of today carries on the tradition of keeping its 1.30 billion human population in ignorance in respect of the political dogma, which guarantees the continuation of the present regime.

But, with the advent of the dissemination of fast and comprehensive information, via the Internet, motion pictures, the telephone, books and periodicals, etc. it is impossible to keep people in ignorance for a very long period of time.

The mould of ignorance in the PRC will, soon, be shattered, with the tens of thousands of fragments of the mould forever lost.

The Government of the PRC is deluding itself if it thinks that it can control the media by bullying tactics, by enacting laws to try to control the spread of information, by withdrawing financial support, such as advertising, etc, by enlisting the aid of tergiversates to do its bidding.

Let the fools of the world say what they will for the good sense of the people will seek out the truth and label the fools for that which they are.

Censorship is unnecessary because society will determine that which is to be considered the acceptable standards of propriety at any given period.

In the US, today, anybody may stand up and state that the world will vanish in a puff of smoke; or, for that matter, that the President is incapable of carrying out his duties in accordance with his sworn mandate.

If it is true, then the truth will out.

Conversely, if it is a load of codswallop, that will quickly come to be known thus discrediting the utterer of the falsehoods.

The US Government need not try to control the media for it is better to have an unrestrained Press, no matter what rubbish it publishes, than to have a government whose aims are to restrain the Press.

To have a free and democratically elected government, bent on restraining the Press, is to have no free and democratically elected government, at all.

Better, in that case, to have no government at all than to fetter the free Press.

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