

GOODBYE, MR ARCULLI

When a specific and definable sector of society or when members of a specific geographical area vote in an individual to be their representative on the Legislative Council of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), it does not follow that that sector of society, or the people of that geographical area, may crack the whip over their candidate's back, telling him or her to do this or that, to vote 'yes' on this matter, and/or to vote 'no' on that one.

This applies, also, to Legislative Councillors, who are appointed by the HKSAR Government of Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa.

In the case of Government-appointed Councillors, if they act or vote in a manner, which is deemed to be contrary to present Government opinion, philosophy, policy or known mandate, it does not follow that they are disloyal to Government ... as long as their acts are bona fide and are made in good conscience.

They must, at all times, be loyal to their Government, but, if their conscience does not allow them to endorse a Government proposition, then, they must be deemed to be the loyal opposition -- and be seen to be such.

A Legislative Councillor, once installed in office, has a duty to all the people of the HKSAR and must, in good conscience, irrespective of the wishes, desires and aspirations of his constituency, or the Government of the day that he serves, exercise that duty of fidelity to the best of his ability: He owes that to his people, the people that he is sworn to serve.

Mr Ronald Arculli, the Legislative Councillor, who, recently threw in the towel of defeat, even before September electioneering began, has made it only too clear that his constituency, and the Government of the day, do not love him.

Pity!

He claims to have been a thorn in the side of those who would have him act in accordance with their wishes, irrespective of the fact that that may not be in the best interests of all of the people of the HKSAR.

If one is to believe the 61-year-old, Mr Ronald Arculli, by innuendo, he is stating that pressure was applied on him, at times, by design or by accident, to consider certain political matters in the best interests of the minority -- his constituency and/or certain Government employees, acting on instructions from the powers-that-be -- to the detriment of the majority.

Further, he is stating that, even if he ran in the September, Legislative Council elections, he would have little chance of being successful since his Real Estate and Construction Constituency would not support his re-election campaign.

There is no reason to doubt this solicitor on anything that he has uttered, inside and outside the Legislative Council Chamber.

It would appear, according to reports, that some of his past acts were not in accordance with what his constituency appears to desire.

In short, he is stating that his constituency did not want him to act in the best interests of the HKSAR and all the inhabitants of it, but in the best interests of the Real Estate and Construction Constituency.

This indicates just how immature is that segment of the HKSAR.

Or is it?

Perhaps, the members of the Real Estate and Construction Constituency are more politically mature than is Legislative Councillor Ronald Arculli, at least in these times.

And the Government of the HKSAR may be on a par with members of the Real Estate and Construction Constituency.

Or is it?

Mr Tung Chee Hwa has made it very clear, in many of his acts and speeches, that if somebody does not agree with him on a certain determination, then that person cannot be trusted and must, by definition, be working against the interests of Mr Tung Chee Hwa.

And it follows that he who does not endorse the acts of Mr Tung Chee Hwa is working against that Government of Mr Tung Chee Hwa and all of the Tung Chee Hwa entourage.

Mr Tung Chee Hwa's political format is not unlike that of the Central Government of the PRC where it is held that the outcome of a Government proposition should be known before the votes are counted in a referendum.

According to a number of Legislative Councillors, including Mr Ronald Arculli, the Executive Branch of the Government of Mr Tung Chee Hwa has too much power over the Legislature.

But that is the way of all flesh in the PRC -- and the HKSAR is, after all, part of the PRC '*motherland*'.

And that has been the case since July 1, 1997: How else could Mr Tung Chee Hwa have been '*elected*' to office?

It is naïve of the likes of Legislative Councillors Ronald Arculli, Martin Lee, Christina Loh Kung Wai, et al, to think differently.

It is said that there has never been a successful and viable government without that government maintaining that there exists an omnipotent being: A god by any other name.

The PRC Government makes no bones about the fact that it has no god and has no god-like figure to worship and revere -- save the perquisites of high office and, seemingly, omnipotent political power.

Perquisites of high office and omnipotent political power are the 2 gold rings to be snatched on the merry-go-round of PRC politics.

The '*coin*' of the PRC Government, and that would include the HKSAR Government since it is controlled by Beijing, after all, may be equated to, and exemplified by, the clanging of the chains that bind tightly the tergiversates and the nepotists to Central Government policy, in the same way that in England, the '*coin*' was, until about 1813, the jingle of the guinea.

That HKSAR Government ministers and petty employees and followers of Mr Tung Chee Hwa would have frequent run-ins with the likes of Mr Ronald Arculli and those other Legislative Councillors, who are seen not to be towing the policy line, is to be fully expected.

But is that a good enough reason to throw in the towel of defeat ... even before electioneering starts?

When Legislative Councillor Ronald Arculli states that he sees the Government of Mr Tung Chee Hwa more of the rule of man rather than the rule of law, he is stating the obvious.

This has always been known.

But can change be brought about by abdication of office?

If people, such as Legislative Councillor Ronald Arculli, quit before they start, then it is a guarantee of more of the same mediocrity, unrest and disappointment at the HKSAR Government -- with no hope of one seeing improvements.

In the words of Edmond Rostand:

*'Thrice hap' is he who hides from pomp and power,
In sylvan shades and solitary bower.'*

Or, perhaps, the last word should go to Oliver Goldsmith:

*'A man he was to all the country dear,
And passing rich with forty pounds a year;
Remote from towns, he ran a godly race,
Nor e'er had chang'd nor wished to change his place;
Unpractis'd he to fawn, or seek for power,
By doctrines fashion'd to the varying hour;
Far other aims his heart had learned to prize,
More skill'd to raise the wretched than to rise.'*

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