

A GIFT TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE TUNG CHEE HWA

Talk is cheap, especially when one is desirous of criticising a government or its policy(ies).

After all, there is, always, something negative to say about a government administration, be it a communistic one or a democratic one.

This point was made aware to all of the nearly 7 million human inhabitants of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), last week, when the incumbent Chief Executive, Mr Tung Chee Hwa, was able to crown himself Chief Executive of the HKSAR for another term of 5 years.

Because, while it was widely advertised that the game was open to all qualified prospective candidates to run against the Chief Executive for the top post in the territory, nobody else registered to be a candidate for the Office of Chief Executive.

The HKSAR democratic system, with regard to selecting the Chief Executive, is such that there is an Election Committee of 799 people, 200 members of which are members of the National People's Congress (NPC) – the Parliament of the PRC – and, it is a requirement of a prospective candidate for the post of Chief Executive of the HKSAR to secure at least 100 members of the Election Committee to endorse his/her nomination as a bona fide candidate for the post.

Mr Tung Chee Hwa's political machine swept up 706 votes of the 799 available votes, thus guaranteeing his nomination to the post and, at the same time, guaranteeing that he would suffer no opposition from any parvenu.

(A member of the Election Committee may only vote for one candidate so that any prospective candidate that can capture more than 400 votes is guaranteed to win the election)

Legislative Councillor Martin Lee Chu Ming, a barrister by training and one of Mr Tung's biggest critics, did not throw his hat into the ring for the job.

Since Legislative Councillor Martin Lee Chu Ming is a member of the Election Committee, and since he is not loath to state that he does not think too highly of the Chief Executive, one may assume that he did not lend his name, endorsing Mr Tung Chee Hwa's nomination for another 5-year term.

One could state, with some justification, no doubt, that Legislative Councillor Martin Lee Chu Ming is more than a bit of a coward in that he did not try to land the job for himself.

No doubt, he was terribly afraid to be beaten up by the Chief Executive in a public showdown, held in order to ascertain which of the 2 gentlemen was the more popular, and the more erudite and learned.

(Mr Tung Chee Hwa professes to know more about Confucius and his teachings than Legislative Councillor Martin Lee Chu Ming.)

At the first election for the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, held in June 1997, Mr Tung Chee Hwa stood on the podium of The Convention Centre, Wanchai, below the flag of the PRC, while the other 2 candidates, Mr Peter Woo Kwong Ching and Sir T.L. Yang, a businessman and the former Chief Justice of the HKSAR, respectively, stood on the podium on either side of The Great Man.

The grand entrance of Mr Tung Chee Hwa onto the podium was accompanied by lights flashing and the thunderous clapping of hands, that clapping, having been well orchestrated by some of the top dignitaries of the PRC, most notably that of Mr Lu Ping, the former PRC Government's Director of The Hongkong and Macau Affairs Office.

Weeks before that grand event, it was well known that Mr Tung Chee Hwa would land the job as the most powerful man in the HKSAR.

High-ranking members of the NPC had been promoting Mr Tung Chee Hwa, saying what a wonderful chap he was.

In fact, Mr Tung Chee Hwa is a wonderful chap, as most, high-ranking members of the NPC in good standing would still attest, today.

It may be considered interesting to some people, however, that Mr Peter Woo and Sir T.L. Yang did not even make an attempt to seek nomination for the post of Chief Executive of the HKSAR, this time around.

If it were thought to be worthwhile to try to be the First Chief Executive of the HKSAR, for what reason did they not want to succeed The Great Man to serve the people of the HKSAR?

They, clearly, must have known that they had no chance to win the popular vote and, clearly, they did not want to be humiliated for a second time, by standing on either side of The Great Man in the Wanchai Convention Centre, while dignitaries of the NPC clapped for Mr Tung Chee Hwa, and ignored the other, second-class candidates.

It would have been much better for Mr Tung Chee Hwa to have had there be at least one other person, vying for the position of Chief Executive of the HKSAR, because that would have made the '*election*' have the appearance of being democrat, within a representative democracy, at least.

He definitely would have won, in any event; and, then, people would have said: The best man won the day.

As it turned out, nobody else even tried to be a candidate for the post; so the incumbent, with the blessings of Beijing, had to take the job for another 5 years.

It is possible, of course, that people, such as Legislative Councillor Martin Lee Chu Ming and the richest man in the world, Mr Li Ka Shing, would not have wanted the job because it would have opened them up to criticism.

(TARGET assumes that Mr Li Ka Shing could take the job away from Mr Tung Chee Hwa at the drop of hat)

One will, now, never know.

And that is just as well.

Mr Tung Chee Hwa is known to be self-effacing, in both thought and deed.

It is the hallmark of the Confucian scholar and world statesman.

There is the Confucian teaching that states that where there is no competition, one suffers the loneliest of waits; and, one becomes the loneliest of men.

The Gift, Definitive

Since the political die is cast, so to speak, TARGET, now, is willing to offer to the new leader of the 416 square miles, which comprises the HKSAR, a little advise.

We, at TARGET, ask for nothing in return, except that we are not expelled, or ostracised, from polite society.

TARGET offers to Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa this little gift in the sincere, honest and humble hope that he will accept it, as one accepts gifts from friends, for, then, we give more weight to the intention of the gift and that which lies behind the gift rather than to the quality of the gift, itself.

Now that Mr Tung Chee Hwa will sit as the HKSAR Chief Executive for another, 5-year term, he must be careful that the people of the HKSAR do not become too concerned that his '*monarchy*' does not graduate into a tyranny.

It is simple for monarchies to become tyrannies, in the same way that it is very easy for aristocracies to become oligarchies, or for democracies to slide into anarchy.

But Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa must hide from the populace that which may, truly, be happening for it is well known that too much knowledge is dangerous because people, by and large, do not know how to use new knowledge to their best advantage.

This is akin to the gathering of statistics: People may try to act on the statistics; and, that could well result in catastrophic consequences.

It is well known that men act either out of necessity or free choice.

It is, also, well known that men are most admirable where they have the least freedom of choice.

This, being the case, it is far better to choose infertile political soil for the construction of a new or modified system of laws so that the inhabitants will be forced to be industrious and prevented from being self-indulgent.

That will make the inhabitants more united, having fewer occasions for conflict because of the political poverty in which they live.

In order for Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa to produce the best and most admirable citizens of the HKSAR, he, by necessity, must impose artificial laws that will be effective: Design laws to force people to do what they are not forced to do or would not, ordinarily, want to do.

In countries that are delightful and fertile and where there is an abundance of free choice, men tend to be exceedingly lazy.

They become incapable of producing anything worthwhile, or lasting.

Look at Canada: Most workers do not want to labour more than 36 hours per week, in the summer, and they hesitate to leave the warmth of their houses in the winter months when temperatures drop to below zero, Celsius.

When Egypt was the shining example of the world, before the birth of Christ, as far as wealth, culture and erudition were concerned, the artificial necessity, imposed by the country's rulers in respect of law, was so effective that the country produced some of the finest men of its day.

Many of greatest leaders that the world has ever known were students of history and, whereas, most people taste history, the great leaders of the world chew on it, digest it, learn from it.

So, Mr Tung Chee Hwa, read ... read ... read.

Men are, by their very nature, envious.

They are envious of other men; and, they are envious of other men, living in other territories.

There is a Chinese proverb that you should remember: The ginger in another garden is always thought to be sweeter than one's own.

Men, also, are much quicker to criticise than to praise what others have done, or have, seemingly, failed to have done.

It is the nature of man not to be very concerned about the emotional outbursts of people of the ilk of Legislative Councillor Martin Lee Chu Ming.

In the same way, most people do not plan for heavy weather while the sun shines in the Heaven.

Your people have to learn that they should admire those who are generous in spirit, not those who have the resources to be generous, as is the case in respect of Legislative Councillor Martin Lee Chu Ming.

The population of the HKSAR must learn to respect you for your knowledge of how to rule, not what you know – which may not be very much.

That you may be ignorant is of little consequence, provided that you, yourself, know of this and nobody else.

If it becomes known that you are ignorant, then, like the good surgeon, make one deep incision and extirpate those who know.

But, do it once, only, and make it a permanent wound so that others will remember your definitive actions.

Look at US President George W. Bush, with his wealth of ignorance – yet he, still, is the most powerful man in the world, today.

The power of your rule is more important than the perceived power of the rhetoric of those who would claim that they are able to rule better than you.

Lastly, it is important to remember that since fortune changes, man stubbornly continues to behave in the same way.

Man flourishes when his behaviour suits the times; he fails when he is out of step.

It is better to be headstrong than cautious, for fortune is a lady: It is necessary, if you want to master her, to beat her and to strike her on occasion.

The lady, more often than not, submits to those who act boldly than to those who proceed in a calculating fashion.

Moreover, since she is a lady, she smiles on the young, for they are less cautious, more ruthless, and overcome her with their boldness.

Good luck from TARGET!

<p>THIS IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES, TO BE KNOWN IN LATER EDITIONS AS, SIMPLY: TARGET'S GIFT</p>
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