



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

China does not appear to want to give Hongkong the right to elect, through Universal Suffrage, its own Chief Executive. I have been trying to fathom in my mind as to the chief reason, or reasons, for this determination of the Motherland. I recall, many years ago, when Mr A. de O. Sales was the Chairman of the Urban Council, that he maintained – and he was not afraid to say this, openly, and in print – that not everybody, eligible to vote at Urban Council Elections in the, then, British Crown Colony of Hongkong, should be permitted so to do because they were either lacking in knowledge and, therefore, could not make a rational and reasonable choice for a person to represent them in the Urban Council, because they were too stupid to be able to make a valid and/or logical choice for a candidate to sit in the Urban Council Chamber, and/or because it made no sense to have too many silly votes, caste in an election, in any event, because it was costly and time-wasting, among other things. There was some sense to Mr A. de O. Sales's logic, at the time, no doubt, and it is fact that nobody ever challenged him, with the, then, doyenne of the Urban Council, Ms Elsie Elloitt, formerly a Christian missionary to China before she succumbed the charms of the late Mr Andrew Tu, supporting him, roundly. But have times changed, now? Look at the calibre of some of the Legislative Councillors of today: The Honourable Chim Pui Chung is a felon; The Honourable Leung Kwok Hung (known as 'Long Hair') is disgusting, clearly having no knowledge of politics or anything else, for that matter, being very badly mannered, and, in my opinion, an utter disgrace to right-minded people of Hongkong; the Honourable Emily Lau Wai Hing, who seems to take delight in criticizing anything for the only valid reason of making noises and obtaining publicity for herself by so doing. There are many examples of Legislative Councillors who absent themselves from meetings, persistently, or show up only when the meetings are nearly concluded. I could go on and on, talking about the so-called representatives of the people of Hongkong, sitting in the Legislative Council Chamber of today, but that would just bore you. The thing about the present batch of people, sitting in the Legislative Council Chamber, is that, without question, many of them should have no right to sit there, simply because they are either unqualified for this high office, because they are not, really, interested in the work that Legislative Councillors are supposed to do and/or because they see the Legislative Council as their only means of making a living. If the people of Hongkong are unable to vote into office, those qualified candidates to sit in the Legislative Council, it is quite likely that the bigwigs in Beijing are of the firm opinion that Hongkong people are incapable of selecting the right man, or woman, to sleep in the official residence of the territory's Chief Executive at Upper Albert Road, which is, now, under renovation. I am certain that Beijing is not in the least bit afraid of the people of Hongkong, demanding Universal Suffrage. It is, simply put, that it is the general opinion of Beijing that, for the most part, Hongkong is, still, too immature to be able to acknowledge the terrible responsibility that goes along with the concept of Universal Suffrage. Also, it is obvious that the people of Hongkong, for the most part, do not inculcate into their very being, the love and loyalty of China that the people in other parts of China feel for their country. The people of the US, for instant, while criticizing their President, on a daily basis, would not hesitate to defend him with their lives, if necessary, because he is the embodiment of the system of government of the country, having been duly elected in a fair and honest process. Also, school starts with the entreaty ... 'I pledge my allegiance to the flag of The United States of America ...'. Such is the love of the American people for their country. Sadly, there is no such love for many of the Hongkong population for their country – yet.

On the other hand, when will the eligible voters of Hongkong be considered sufficiently au courant to be able to select and caste their ballots for the person to lead the territory for a period of five years or longer? If Beijing

maintains, and this appears to be the situation, that Universal Suffrage is impractical for Hongkong, at this time in its political evolution because the eligible voters of the territory are too immature, naive, stupid, lacking in loyalty to China, and etc, what will be the yardstick by which Beijing can safely say that Hongkong voters have arrived and may be entrusted with Universal Suffrage? Bear in mind, My Dear Grandchild, that Universal Suffrage is a one-way ticket to where-ever it leads. There is no turning back: Once given, it may never be taken away. By not suggesting a timetable for Universal Suffrage for Hongkong, it appears to me that Beijing is unsure of the intellectual calibre of the seven million-plus human inhabitants of territory. Beijing is likely to be quite correct if the experience of the first visit to China by the so-called democrats of the Hongkong Legislative Council is to be considered a thermometer of the type of person, who might be elected to lead the territory into the future. I cannot imagine The Honourable Long Hair as the Chief Executive of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. Can you? Do you think, as the Chief Executive of Hongkong, that he would be invited to meet the leaders of the Western World? What about The Honourable (felon) Chim Piu Chung? How about that Legislative Councillor, who thinks with his penis rather than his brain, while claiming to be an erudite scholar of law? How about that banker who, openly, practises fornication and makes no bones about it? While the above examples are, clearly, not on, the history of the United States of America suggests that, ultimately, the electorate gets it right in the fullness of time. In respect of the United States, again, following the 1776 uprising, which ultimately drove out the British, the American colonials initiated a form of democracy and elected into office some very brilliant men to lead them: George Washington (1789-1797); John Adams (1797-1801); Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809); and, James Madison (1809-1817). Nobody, today, would question the qualifications of the first four Presidents of the United States. Does Hongkong have anybody of the calibre of these illustrious forefathers of the United States? I can think of nobody in Hongkong of such bearing. A major difference between the United States of America of the Eighteenth Century and Hongkong of the Twenty First Century is that quite a number of the colonials of The Americas, as the United States used to be known, comprised well-educated men, men of letters, men of superior intellect, even by today's standards. Hongkong is inundated with tergiversates, who have little to no backbone, and greedy businessmen and women, some of whom would not think twice about committing murder if it was considered an expedient method of achieving financial or other, ends. There are other categories of Hongkong people, too, but the two groups, mentioned here, seems to cover a wide spectrum of many of Hongkong's most-respected citizens – sadly. Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen, who is the Chief Executive of Hongkong, now, is hardly qualified for the job, actually, because, although he may well be a good and able administrator, as well as being a good Catholic, he knows little about Hongkong except through his work as a civil servant, first under successive British Administrations and, then, under the incompetence of the First Chief Executive of Hongkong: Mr Tung Chee Hwa. The man to lead Hongkong must know Hongkong, be able to feel the pulse of Hongkong, understand the aspirations of the people of Hongkong, and be able to implement programmes for the benefit of the people of Hongkong, without fear and/or favour and without consideration of aggrandizement. He must not curry favour from moguls of industry, from politicians, who may be able to advance his personal ambitions, and, when making political determinations, he must treat all men and women in the same manner as he would treat a hawker in a flower market: With respect and dignity. Is there such a man, living in Hongkong, today?

Talk to you next week.

Chief Lady

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