



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

It is a really strange world in which we live. I was watching television the other day and there was 'Iron' Mike Tyson, the former heavyweight boxing champion of the world, signing autographs for his adoring fans. A commentator at the Tyson Press Conference said that Iron Mike, for all of his many mistakes of the past, is still a draw and many people still respect him and want him to make a comeback at the age of forty years. Here is a man, once a remarkable athlete and, clearly, once an extraordinary boxer, who has been accused and found guilty of raping at least one woman, of assault and battery of a number of people after losing his temper, of biting off a piece of the ear of his opponent in frustration in the June 1997 fight with Evander Holyfield, of being proved to be bad sportsman and banned from boxing for one year and fined three million American dollars ... and yet he has adoring fans! There is even an official fan site for this felon! For what reason should right-minded people want to respect this man? I would be clearly remiss if I permitted my daughter, or any female member of my family, regardless of age, to sit, unaccompanied, in the same room as this man. The last time that I heard any news about Iron Mike was that he was to be a movie star – the lead actor in a pornographic movie!

Then, there was a news report about former American President Bill Clinton, who was advocating that people should be more careful about what they eat because, as the saying goes, 'You are what you eat.' Don't eat this and don't eat that were his words of wisdom. Now, in respect of this man, as I have written to you in the past, at the time that he was the President of the United States of America, he committed perjury, he seduced Ms Monica Lewinsky, a former intern at The White House, and, generally, conducted himself in a manner, which brought the strongest nation in the world into international public hatred, scorn and ridicule. As a known perjurer, it is simply unbelievable that he was not impeached from office. As President Bill Clinton, he was the most-powerful man in the world. He had control of the largest and most-powerful military force in the world; his determinations could well have shaped the future of his and many other countries. And, yet, he behaved in a manner, which brought discredit to his Administration and was the laughing stock of many world leaders. Today, he is held up to be a shining example for the youth of the United States? What kind of a world is it that permits felons to be heroes of one sort or another and, in some cases, to be revered? I have always been of the opinion that respect has to be earned. How can one respect either Iron Mike Tyson or Bill Clinton?

Look at Tung Chee Hwa: How many people in Hongkong respect the Administration of this bungler? When he resigned from office, with immediate effect, many people were happy that he had stepped down from his position as Chief Executive of Hongkong (this is assumed by me). In my opinion, he should have been kicked out of office at least three years prior to his official resignation because he was, clearly, ineffective and incompetent. One of the many weaknesses of the democratic system of government is that the electorate sometimes gets it wrong and puts a completely incompetent person into a position of power. However, with adequate safeguards in a political system, the mistakes of the electorate can be rectified in accordance with the law. In my opinion, I have a lot of faith in the democratic system because, for all of its shortcomings and pitfalls, it is, still, the best system of government, thus far devised by man. In Hongkong, as we all know, we have felon as a Legislative Councillor and, for many people, he is a man to be respected. This is incredible and indicates that the system of electing lawmakers in Hongkong is flawed. The Honorable Chim Pui Chung only managed to get back into office because a small number of his buddies voted for him. Due to there being no Universal Suffrage in Hongkong, a person of his calibre is able to sit in the Legislative Council Chamber. If Iron Mike Tyson had been a Hongkonger, I suppose he would, definitely, have been elected to represent some functional constituency. The

same would, probably, have held true for Bill Clinton. Even for those able Legislative Councillors, I note that many of them have their own (private) agendas, which, clearly, conflict with their public duties. Under the present system of government in Hongkong, there is no real accountability of people, who take an oath of office. Who said that only women were fickle?

Talk to you, next week.

Chief Lady

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