



## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*How strange is the political system of the United States of America! Here we have a race to the White House of 2 Senators, with one of them, prancing round the world as though he had, already, won the race, while the other one, staying on American soil, talking to American voters and, at the same time, criticising his rival. Senator Barack Obama has just completed his European tour, meeting, last Sunday, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr Gordon Brown. Senator Barack Obama concluded his foreign trip at Number 10, Downing Street, the official residence of the Prime Minister while in residence in London. One has to wonder: For what reason would the head of the Government of the United Kingdom want to take tea with an African American Senator from Illinois. Up to the time that Senator Barack Obama determined to run for the highest office in the United States, few people, outside the country, knew much about this gentleman. After his European trip, should he not be elected as President of the largest and most-powerful nation of the world, will it be something of embarrassment to the heads of countries, who wined and dined him on his whirlwind trip to Europe and the Middle East? On the other hand, if the heads of the countries that he visited declined to meet this Senator, would it be even more of an embarrassment if he is elected to the US Presidency? Normally, it is accepted that boss meets boss and, for anybody of a lower rank, a boss would delegate an underling to do whatever is necessary. I asked Bo-Bo, my froglike husband, of my thoughts on this subject and he said that he did not understand the situation, also. He recalled that when Lady Lydia Dunn (), a former Executive Councillor of Hongkong, went to Beijing in order to meet the then Premier of China, Mr Deng Xiao Ping (), in The Great Hall of the People, the Premier just stood still at one end of the room and waited for Lady Dunn to come to him rather than he, strolling over to greet the Great Lady of one of China's provinces. It was Premier Deng Xiao Ping's way of telling this Great Lady that her position was much lower than the leader of some 1.30 billion people of China. The Frog reminded me that, at no time, has any dignitary of China agreed to meet Mr Martin Lee Chu Ming (), formerly a Legislative Councillor of Hongkong. 'For what reason should any politician of China want to meet him?' The Frog asked. 'Who is he, anyway: One more Hongkong big mouth who thinks that he knows it all and wants the people of Hongkong to have political freedom – yesterday! This is even before the population of Hongkong is sufficiently politically mature.' I am not sure, exactly, what The Frog meant by his statements, but I likened them to raising a child, taking the child from Point One to Point Two in its education in order to teach it.*

*What surprised me, greatly, about the way in which Senator Barack Obama and Senator John McCain were both trying to reach the hearts, minds and billfolds of people of the United States, was the diametrically opposite plan of attacks that they employed. Senator John McCain is staying on American soil, meeting the people of the country and trying to persuade them to vote him in as the Commander-In-Chief of the most-powerful military machine in the world, today. In contrast, Senator Barack Obama was talking to an estimated 200,000 German people – in Germany! In Israel, Senator Barack Obama was talking about the problems of the Jewish State in getting along with its Arab neighbours, while Senator John McCain was getting on with the job of lobbying the Jewish vote on his home turf. According to the polls, both Senators are pretty close so that it is about a 50-50 chance that either one could catch the golden ring on this*

*political merry-go-round. However, extolling the virtues of the American way of life to some 200,000 Germans in Germany is hardly the way to win the American electorate to Senator Barack Obama's plan for the future, it seems to me. Perhaps I don't know much about American politics. The Frog maintains that, in fact, I am politically naïve. I can't disagree with him, but is Senator Barack Obama, also, politically naïve? Is he enjoying a mental orgasm, being the peripatetic, would-be American President, flying round the world on his private aeroplane, which has yet to be labelled, Airforce Two.*

*I would be interested to learn of your thoughts on this matter, My Dear Grandchild.*

*Talk to you, next week.*

*Chief Lady*

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