



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

While tens of thousands of Hongkong dollars are being spent on flying people to and from Canada in order to obtain evidence from Mr Edison Chen (), the fornicator who photographed and recorded his many sexual exploits with pretty little Hongkong starlets on his secret video recordings, the Hongkong police seem to have forgotten that the scales of justice in this high-profile case are the same scales of justice, used to weigh crimes, perpetrated by others who determine to act, contrary to the law. Now, according to my masseuse, who is a Filipina, she is very disappointed in one of her 'sisters', who, after working for just 5 months in a Chinese family in Hongkong, clandestinely left the family home without so much as a by your leave. After she left, the Chinese family discovered that about \$HK8,500 had gone missing, all of which was the lai see money of the children. I talked to Bo-Bo about this case and, after he had telephoned his friends in the Hongkong Government – he refused to give me any details as to who are his friends – he obtained a copy of a complaint, filed on March 3, 2005, at 4:16 p.m. The official complaint named a Ms Marites Francia Balantes Futol, aged 35 years, of Legazpi City, Manila, the Philippines, as being the culprit. She was engaged by the Chinese family to do the cleaning and cooking from October 7, 2004, on a 2-year contract, the report stated. On the morning of March 3, 2005, at about 8:30 a.m., after seeing the children off to school, she just disappeared from the house, taking with her all of her goods. When it was discovered that she had vanished, it was, also, discovered that the children's lai see money, comprising \$HK7,700, £65, \$US100 and \$S50, had gone missing. In all, this little amount of money translates into about \$HK8,510 at the then foreign-exchange rate. The police took no action, Bo-Bo lamented. 'It is disgraceful!' he told me. 'How is this case any more less important than the Edison Chen Case?' Bo-Bo said that, due to incompetence on the part of the police, the culprit was permitted to leave Hongkong without being challenged at the airport. It would have been easy to prevent her from leaving, according to The Frog, who is my husband and your grandfather. He, then, sat down in his favourite chair and fell asleep – which The Frogs is wont to do when he is unhappy with something. All that The Frog said was absolutely correct. It is not often that I agree with him, but in this case, he is right.

It seems obvious to me that this Filipina planned to rob this Chinese family. She appears to have succeeded in her nefarious plan. I am sure that this is not the only case of a Filipina maid, having left her employer in such a manner, and I am, also, sure that she is not the only one to have succeeded in executing felonious acts without being challenged. It is true that the amount of money in the matter of Ms Marites Francia Balantes Futol and the Chinese family was relatively small, but the law does not care how small a criminal act is because it is either a chargeable offence or it is not. When a woman is raped or sexually assaulted, the perpetrator of the act cannot, as a defense, state that his penis only forced its way into the vagina a little way. And, anyway, she did not get hurt, very much. The fact is that the act was contrary to the law. Full stop! In the case of Ms Marites Francia Balantes Futol, the Chinese family made a report on the same day as the alleged criminal act was perpetrated and the maid disappeared from the Chinese family's home, taking the children's money with her, it is very apparent. Yet, the police did not even make one telephone call to the airport in order to try to stop the alleged felon from leaving the territory. There is only one way in and one way out of Hongkong and, obviously, it would have been easy to nab Ms Marites Francia Balantes

Futol because the police even had her photograph, a facsimile of her likeness, having been taken from her passport. I talked to one police superintendent, who claimed that, in matters as small as this one, the wheels of justice turn slowly. I would go as far as to state that, in this case, they did not turn at all. Even to this day, The Frog told me, the police have no record of the alleged felon, having left Hongkong. I would have thought that the same effort to arrest this alleged felon would have been taken as is being taken in the Edison Chen Case. But, no, that is not the case. Even though the Hongkong police have the address of the alleged felon in the Philippines, nothing is being done to try to bring her to book.

Of course, in the matter of Ms Marites Francia Balantes Futol, there are no pretty little movie stars involved and the story is unlikely, ever, to find its way onto the front page of any newspaper, anywhere. However, to my way of thinking, this matter is just as important, if not more important, than the Edison Chen Case. The Edison Chen Case is a case of somebody, allegedly circulating photographs, without permission, of comely Hongkong starlets, getting it off with a mediocre singer/sometimes actor in a bed. Such pornography is common on the Internet. So, what else is new? But, in the case of Ms Marites Francia Balantes Futol, this is clearly theft of somebody else's property with the intent never to return that property. What will the teenaged children of the Chinese family think on learning that their lai see money had been stolen by a maid, but the police, who are sworn to uphold the law, are taking no action in the matter. Justice should be the same for all, is that not so?

You think it over, My Dear Grandchild, and, then, write back to me, explaining which of the 2 acts is the more serious in terms of the laws of Hongkong.

Talk to you, next week.

Chief Lady

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