

COMMENT

For the past 4 years or so, it has become very apparent that the Chief Executive of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen (), has sent many, if not most, of the so-called Democratic Camp to Coventry.

The ostracism by the Chief Executive of the democrats, sitting in the Legislative Council, has not ameliorated the rift between the Executive and the Legislature, however.

Not by one iota.

If anything, the unilateral action of the Chief Executive has widened the gap between the thinking of the democrats of the Legislative Council and the Executive.

TARGET () does not take sides, supporting one person or group against another in the current childish nonsense, because that should not be the mandate of an objective and unbiased medium.

One cannot help but ponder, however, as to the thinking of this man, chosen by Beijing to lead the territory of the HKSAR, when he portrays himself, by his own devices, as being little better than a spoilt brat.

The fissure between the avowed democrats of the Legislative Council and the Executive has deteriorated to such an extent, today, that Beijing has been forced to take up the challenge, giving authority to the Deputy Director of the Central Government Liaison Office, Mr Li Gang (), to try to intercede.

Mr Li Gang is reported to have said, on Tuesday, words to the effect that it is preferable to engage in constructive dialogue than to employ acrimony in order to try to prove one's point of view.

In short, what Mr Li Gang was saying, although he may not have realised it at the time, was that the recorded statements of the Greek philosopher, Gorgias (485-380 B.C.), that might is right is not applicable in matters of politics in a free society.

Might may well be proved to be right in the here and the now, but it will be proven to be an exercise in utter futility in the passage of time as history has shown, over and over again.

Because the minority of the population of a territory always has the right ... and that right cannot be suppressed, ad infinitum.

Mr Li Gang appears to entreat both the Executive and the Legislature – especially the staunch pro-democrats – to discover all by the available means of persuasion, not by indulging in childish activities, such as has been introduced, constructively, by the Chief Executive – without Mr Li Gang, mentioning the very unfortunate actions (and non-actions) of Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen, over the past 4 years or so.

This gentleman, obviously, has been given the green light by Beijing to try to intercede in the political affairs of the HKSAR in order to try to bring about rationality to an otherwise political impasse.

In effect, therefore, Beijing has arrived at the conclusion that Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen is unable to contain the political situation in the 416 square miles that constitute the HKSAR.

Beijing must, also, fear that the situation could well spin out of control.

Enter, Stage Left: Mr Li Gang.

In-In; Out-Out

On July 18, 2008, Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen was challenged in the Legislative Council by a member of the Pro-Democratic Camp to explain what he meant when, 3 years earlier, he had used the phrase, publicly, – ‘*in-in; out-out*’.

Roughly, this could be interpreted as meaning that you are either with me or against me.

Shades of the statement by the former US President, Mr George W. Bush, in respect of his avowed determination to attack Iraq and to overthrow its dictator Saddam Hussein in March 2003.

Since Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen is a practising Catholic, probably, he learned, in Luke 11:23:

‘He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.’

Clearly, Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen forgot, when addressing the Legislative Council in 2005, that there are some people who maintain that they represent members of the loyal opposition.

When Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen was challenged by one of the democrats to explain, fully, his interpretation of , he stormed out of the Legislative Council Chamber in a huff.

Today, while the Chief Executive has meetings with all manner of Legislative Councillors on a monthly basis, he agrees to have short meetings with the democrats, only once per year.

One may ponder: What could be accomplished by that one, short meeting?

Clearly, Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen has told the world that he can no longer tolerate the actions of the democrats of the Legislative Council and that he will distance himself from them, allowing his minions to deal with their problems and grievances – if the minions are forced so to do.

That this honest man has trouble in communicating is not questioned, but by closing the door to healthy and constructive dialogue with those, holding differing opinions to his on subjects, close to the hearts of those Legislative Councillors who are imbued with passion for their causes, is hardly the road to compromise solutions.

The main political problem appears to inculcate, inter alia, in Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen’s mind in being unable to accept that the attacks on his Administration, in the Legislative Council or elsewhere, differ from attacks on his person – of which there has been none.

He seems to be singly unable to accept the simple facet of a proposal that an attack on a suggested new policy proposal need not mean that the bearer of the policy is a scoundrel, a coward, or a person who is not trying to do his best for the territory and its inhabitants that he is trying to administer.

One may not appreciate the appearance of a person, his thinking on a certain subject, his political or religious bias, or any other aspect of that person, but it does not follow that that person is not honest and not faithful to his cause or causes.

In the words of the 16th President of the United States of America, Mr Abraham Lincoln:

‘Let us have faith that right makes might; and, in that faith, let us to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.’

One may hate the sin, but one should not hate the sinner.

It would seem only correct that in order to return a person to the bosom of society after that person has been found to have committed an act, punishable by the laws of the day, that one has to start from the position of learning to love the sinner.

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