

The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

I learned, some years ago, that members of any legitimate parliament have to be loyal to their government. Even when a member of a parliament cannot endorse a governmental proposal, he or she, always, is to be awarded the respect that is due to the high position that that member holds. In fact, in such cases, that member becomes the loyal opposition to the government. But the member has to remain loyal to the government, always. It is fundamental otherwise any disloyalty may be construed – and most likely would – as a violation by a subject of allegiance to the State. The fact that the member of parliament may not condone the adoption of a governmental proposal, it does not mean, and it should not be construed as meaning, that that member is not loyal to the government of the day. It is good to have free-thinking members of a government for it permits the heads of government to see another side of an argument. Now, I am not a political scientist and I am, certainly, not a political commentator, and, as you know, I have never been a Legislative Councillor of Hongkong. Recently, however, I could not contain myself when I read what the Chief Secretary, Mr Henry Tang Ying Yen (), said, in respect of the Hongkong Government's Constitutional Reform proposals. He said to the people of Hongkong, in effect, stop mucking about and just say: 'Yes!' Chief Secretary Henry Tang Ying Yen, it seems to me, is not interested in anybody else's opinion on any subject because he seems to know it all – about everything. I do not like him, not one iota, because he is pompous and arrogant and, politically speaking, a bombast. For what reason would this very rich man not want to hear other people's opinions? I understand that he wants to succeed the current Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang Yam Kuen (), also known as Donald The Duck to many people of the territory. It is well known, in fact. Chief Secretary Henry Tang Ying Yen should not, however, sell his soul for the sake of achieving this political goal. I cannot help but come to the conclusion that the Chief Executive's endorsements of anything and everything that the Beijing states about Hongkong and its affairs is his way of trying to get into the good books of the Beijing muck-a-mucks. I do not mind him, having his own ideas, but those ideas must be in the best interests of Hongkong. They must not be in the best interests of Beijing, or, for that matter, in the best interests of Donald The Duck. Is there any reason that he cannot be the loyal opposition of the Beijing Government? Would it be incorrect to state that what is good for Beijing is good for Hongkong, either today or in the many morrows to follow? Or, put another way: Is it incorrect to state that what is good for Hongkong is good for Beijing? Hongkong is part of China, is it not? So, this little pimple of a territory of China, with its 7 million-plus, human population, by being itself and not being that which other territories of China have become, can play its part in the future development of the great country of China. I state, without reservation, 'the great country of China', because, surely, that is what my country will become on the world stage. Some people maintain that China has, already, arrived. I do not disagree.

According to Chief Secretary Henry Tang Ying Yen, as I see it on interpolation of his utterances, he just wants the people of Hongkong to accept what Beijing is offering. It is much simpler for him if he can pull it off – because, then, he will not have to think too hard ... if at all. He puts no valid argument forward to justify most of his glib statements. He, thoroughly, expects the people of Hongkong to accept his opinions without a second thought. He might be correct, of course, but, then again, he might be partially or,

completely, wrong. The job of Chief Secretary Henry Tang Ying Yen is not to force his opinions down the throats of Hongkong residents, but, objectively and impartially, to state the facts, allowing the people of the territory to make their own decisions. Instead, he applies, obliquely, intimidatory suggestions in order to obtain the response that he requires so as to satisfy the requirements of his own mandate. As the next Chief Executive, it is clear what kind of government he will lead. It will be the kind of government that enshrines in its constitution: 'You is either with me or you is against me.' (This is a misquote of US President George W. Bush just prior to his letting loose his country's dogs of war on Iraq on March 20, 2003.) There will be no in-between in the Administration of Chief Executive Henry Tang Ying Yen. This will be very different from the existing government of Donald The Duck where his type of Administration is one that says nothing, believes in very little, and does next to nothing. What provokes rage in me is that Donald The Duck appears to have no gumption, at all. I wonder whether having no government is better than having, what the Americans term, a lame-duck Administration.

Talk to you, again, next week (assuming that Chief Secretary Henry Tang Ying Yen does not try to stop me, talking, too).

Chief Lady

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