

## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*I have been reading, with great interest, some of the outlandish statements, uttered by Legislative Councillor Regina Ip Lau Suk Yee () as she criticised the 2 hopeful candidates, both trying hard to land the job as the next Chief Executive of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC). About Mr Henry Tang Ying Yen () and Mr Leung Chun Ying (), she said that they both lacked the necessary leadership qualities, competence and stamina. She may, very well, be correct, but, since she, also, wants the job of the Chief Executive of these 416 square miles, inhabited by about 7.30 million people (mostly Chinese, I am told), what are the qualifications that make her better fitted to the post of muckamuck than the 2 gentlemen that she has just, publicly, lambasted? I like the idea of a woman, running for the post of Chief Executive on Hongkong, actually, but I do not want a woman who could well be equated to a stalk of bamboo that bends in accordance to the strength of the incoming wind (). In the not too distant past, Mrs Regina Ip Lau Suk Yee had been a Hongkong Government Servant and, as such, she did as she was ordered. She is quite used to taking orders without thinking because that is what a servant is taught to do: You do as you are told. So, does Hongkong want a former servant, becoming the mistress of Hongkong? Can a servant change its spots, to use a mixed metaphor? Personally, I doubt that Legislative Councillor Regina Ip Lau Suk Yee is suitable for the job of steering the path that Hongkong will tread in the coming years. However, that decision will be made in Beijing where, according to Bo-Bo, my froglike husband, whom, as you know, is very well in the in with the way that Beijing works, the final determination shall be made.*

*I asked The Frog about his opinion of Legislative Councillor Regina Ip Lau Suk Yee. This, briefly, was his reply: 'She is obviously not qualified, having failed Beijing once before in not getting Article 23 of The Basic Law of Hongkong passed in the Legislative Council in September of 2002. The basis of Article 23, which, in essence, was to be a security law, stated that Hongkong shall not permit any act of treason, secession, sedition, or subversion against the Central People's Government or theft of State secrets and to proscribe foreign political organisations to conduct political activities in Hongkong, etc. It is likely that Beijing would not want to take the chance in appointing this lady to replace Donald-the-Duck (Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen []). For myself, I can see a woman, being the Chief Executrix of Hongkong, assuming that Executrix is the feminine gender of Executive. One thing, however, I would not like to hear is that a new political party with the name of "Have a Cup of Tea", coming into being. Beijing, I am certain, is very afraid of such a situation because, in China, there is only one political party – The Chinese Communist Party. A female, being the head of the Hongkong Government, might be interesting, but the problem with females is that, for the most part, they tend to be, or become, emotionally unstable as they age. Also, can you imagine her, standing to deliver a speech in the Legislative Council Chamber and, then, suddenly, The Long-Haired Lout throws a banana at her? What do you think she will do? She might faint, you know. If the other Chief Executive hopefuls do not have the stamina for the job, do you think that she is any better? However, having said that, it would be entertaining to see her, trying to play the part of being a politician. Beijing, I think, however, does not want an entertainer as the leader of Hongkong, but a person with political ability, one who is highly intelligent, tenacious, compassionate, and, most importantly, completely and utterly loyal to the Government of China. I do not mean to be rude to this lady, but what are her qualifications? A former servant!' The Frog made admirable sense and, as he finished his monologue, I*

*determined to make him a bang-up dinner as a show of my appreciation.*

*While considering what I would have Judy, my Filipina servant, make for The Frog's dinner, I started to think whether or not I had the qualifications to be the next Chief Executive of Hongkong when Donald-the-Duck retires. I think that I have all of the attributes that The Frog outlined, but my one demerit is that I do like to think on occasions. This is likely to upset Beijing if I did not vote at a meeting of the National People's Congress in accordance with established protocol. The accepted protocol for a delegate of the National People's Congress, I know, is to raise one's arm, spontaneously, when a show of hands is called by the Chairman of a meeting, thus signifying that one agrees with everything and anything. It is well known that delegates of the National People's Congress are, always, supposed to vote in the affirmative – prior to the first ballot, ever having been cast. Simply put, it is protocol at the National People's Congress to affirm one's loyalty and to vote in accordance with the suggestions of one's superiors. The idea of having a loyal opposition is silly in the eyes of the dictators of the proletariat, using the term of Karl Marx's theory that the ideal of proletariat supremacy, following the overthrow of capitalism and preceding the classless state. (Actually, I never, really, understood this part of the Communist Manifesto, but I have been afraid to admit it to anybody else so, please, My Dear Grandchild, keep this our secret.) See, I am clever, am I not? Now, all I need is some money to fund my political platform ... Where has The Frog gone, now?*

*Before ending this letter to you, I must tell you that Mrs Sarah Palin, when she was just starting her campaign for the post of Governor of Alaska, went to see Pastor Thomas Muthee of the Wasilla Assembly of God Church. She requested of Pastor Thomas Muthee to pray over her and to ask God to make her Governor. It worked! She became Governor of Alaska and she told everybody, on June 8, 2008, that Pastor Thomas Muthee's prayers had made her dream come true. I don't think that Pastor Thomas Muthee would come to Hongkong to assist me in getting the post of muckamuck of Hongkong, but I happen to know that Donald-the-Duck attends St. Joseph's Church on Garden Road, and it should not be too difficult to discover the name of his mentor priest (or priestess). I have been thinking what I could promise a Catholic God if I got the muckamuck job. One thing that I could not promise is to go to Mass in the early morning because I do not like to get up before 9 a.m. However, I would be willing to make compromises in respect of most other things, such as eating only fish on Fridays, always be faithful to my husband, never to utter falsehoods, publicly, think of others, first, before thinking of myself in matters of charity, always wear high-necked blouses and sweaters and never wearing skirts and dresses that do not cover my knees, and, read a chapter of the Bible at least once per week. My thinking is that life is give and take: God gives me the job; I take round the begging bowl at St. Joseph's Church and make certain that people tithe in accordance with the teachings of the Bible. How's that for a deal of the century? I suppose God is not a betting man and that, once he makes a promise, he keeps it.*

*Talk to you, next week.*

*(Governess) Chief Lady (it has a nice ring to it, don't you think?)*

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