

## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*I have been pondering which of the candidates would be best suited to replace Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen ( ) for the job of heading the next Administration of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. It is very difficult to make a determination from the line-up of people who, so far, have shown an interest in the job because, between us, I don't really like any of them. However, just because one of them has eyes that are too tiny, in my opinion, to be able to see, sufficiently, what is taking place in the territory, and, in addition, I don't appreciate his mien, it does not necessarily follow that he would not mature into a good Chief Executive of Hongkong with the passage of time. Another of the candidates that I don't like, very much, is the one who claims to know a little about French and Italian wines, but he keeps all of his bottles of wine in his limited collection, standing upright instead of on a 180-degree plane. To me, a person who does not know very much about the storage of wine, but makes the claim of being a wine expert, is something of a fraud. However, who in this world is not a bit of a fraud?*

*When I read about the comments of Mr Wang Guang Ya ( ) in the Chinese Press of Hongkong on Tuesday, July 12, it made me think more along his lines. Mr Wang Guang Ya said that, in his opinion – and I suppose he has the full support of Beijing since his statements, almost certainly, were first vetted at the seat of power in the Middle Kingdom – among other things, that the next Chief Executive should (a) love the motherland (b) love Hongkong (c) love the people of Hongkong (d) have strong governing ability and (e) have wide support of the people of Hongkong. These I have labeled as being the 5 principles to qualify a candidate for the post of the next Chief Executive of Hongkong.*

*I asked Bo-Bo, my froglike husband, for his opinion with regard to the criteria, outlined by Mr Wang Guang Ya, in respect of a candidate, desirous of donning the toga of the highest governmental position in Hongkong. He said that the only new thing, suggested by Mr Wang Guang Ya, was the fifth principle: Have wide support of the people of Hongkong. 'I question how one could judge whether or not a candidate has wide public support,' The Frog said. 'Look, Hongkong has had, thus far, only 2 Chief Executives since the assumption of sovereignty of Hongkong by the Motherland on July 1, 1997. Not one of those 2 Chief Executives has had wide public support of the resident population of the territory and it, really, did not make a hill of beans whether or not they were loved. Beijing proposes; the Chief Executive of Hongkong disposes. The only criterion for a candidate to head the Government of Hongkong was that the candidate was fully accepted in Beijing, which is the seat of power for China. Hongkong is but a pimple on the bottom of China, you must understand, Betty. If the National People's Congress accepts a candidate to be the Chief Executive of Hongkong, that is that. End of story. Anyway, the outcome of any election in Hongkong is known well in advance of the first ballot, being cast. As for a candidate, having strong governing ability, well, there is nobody in Hongkong who has had any experience in governing anything other than his immediate household, with the exception, perhaps, of some of the heads of industry. Hongkong is, politically, a young territory with only amateurs, trying to govern it since the assumption of sovereignty. In the United States of America, the majority of the people, heading the Administration in Washington D.C., are seasoned politicians, nearly all of whom, having had wide experience in politics and having a considerable knowledge of most of the world's major problems with the lone exception of Mr George W. Bush who, on being sworn in as the 43rd President of the country, admitted openly that he did not know the difference between the continent of South Africa and the country, called South Africa. Hongkong does not have the luxury of bringing people from one tier of politics to a higher tier. The present President of the United States, Mr Barack Hussein Obama, has wide public support by the citizens of the country and I, for*

*one, think that he is quite good at his job. However, you are well aware that the main reason that he won the popular vote was due to the fact that he is black. He is the first black President of the country – and that is very good. Having said that, you should, also, understand that the skin colour of Mr Barack Hussein Obama is only a half tone of black, not, as the Americans would call, as black as the ace of spades. If his skin colour had been very black instead of his half-toned black, it is unlikely that he would have been elected to the highest office in the country. I recognise that he is a very intelligent man and, although he has, so far, been unable to turn the US economy round, he has done a great number of good things, during his term of office. Prior to being elected to his present position, he was a Senator for the State of Illinois. Experience stands for a great deal.'*

*Now, The Frog is not, always, correct, but, from time to time, he gets things right. His comments about President Barack Hussein Obama seem to be spot on. Unfortunately, Hongkong does not have any Afro-Chinese with slightly chocolate-coloured skin to run for the post of Chief Executive. So, how can one judge if a Hongkong candidate has wide public support? Without a truly democratic political system for Hongkong, it is very difficult to ascertain, with any degree of accuracy, whether or not a candidate for the post of Chief Executive has wide public support. A candidate for the top post in the territory might well make the claim that he loves the people, but the important question is whether or not the people of Hongkong love him. It is very clear that the present Chief Executive is not the man that would be acceptable in genteel company in the territory although, for some people, especially religious people, he would be very acceptable in Church on Sunday mornings: He is, after all, a practicing Catholic, you know. It is all so confusing, trying to ponder how to vote for the next Chief Executive of Hongkong, and I cannot help but come to the conclusion that it does not matter a jot at the end of the day whether or not I do cast my ballot. If my ballot will come to mean nothing in the final tally, then, I might as well boycott the elections, completely. That would be good for me because, then, I would be able to get a good night's rest because I would not have to ponder the matter as to which of the candidates is best suited to sleep in the Chief Executive's mansion. I happen to know that quite a number of my friends hold my view and have determined not to vote for the next Chief Executive. Do you agree with me? If you do, let us start a fan club, which could be labelled: Boycott the Ballot Box!*

*Talk to you, next week.*

*Chief Lady*

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