

Circle: The relationship between the people and the rulers in Capitalism

- ◆ Democracy creates many problems for the relationship between the ruler and the people. The ‘left hook’ suffered by a farm labourer, Craig Evans, after throwing a protest egg at the British deputy prime minister, symbolises the true nature of this relationship. Oscar Wild seemed to have correctly observed that, “democracy is the bludgeoning of the people, by the people...”
- ◆ Dramatic television shots of John Prescott’s astonishing left hook and subsequent brawl to the ground, may have shocked many of us outside of the so called “civilised” west. But I would hope that it makes us realise the real difference between the repressive regimes of the ‘developed’ countries and the repressive regimes of ‘undeveloped’ countries. That difference being that the covering up of the peoples true and legitimate disgruntlement with the system is more developed.
- ◆ In his book “Democracy for the Few”, Michael Parenti said “the Golden rule of Democracy is that those who own the gold make the rules.” Democracy is the rule of the wealthy, by the wealthy, and as for the people, they are given whatever is required to keep them alive as a subservient and well disciplined workforce. Although the level of wealth in the west is high, the distribution of wealth is appalling. Britain has one of the world’s worst distributions of wealth. In the west, outside of the ruling elite, there are the “have” and the “have-not’s”
- ◆ The Capitalists are the real rulers. Adam Smith, the founding father of Capitalist economics wrote: “*Civil authority, so far as it is instituted for the security of property, is in reality instituted for the defence of the rich against the poor or of those who have some property against those who have none at all.*” [An inquiry into the nature and causes of the wealth of nations]

Its come to no surprise that the effective rulers in the Western World who champion Freedom and Democracy to the rest of the world are the elite Industrialists and very wealthy. The ‘will’ of the few clearly outweighs the will of society.

Western political parties whether Labour, Tories, or Republicans and Democrats of US are not short of cash, political donations by the corporate bodies and wealthy individuals are now being leaked into the public domain.

The Tories for example have many wealthy friends, a selection of some of Tory benefactors are listed below:

- *Caledonia Investments plc*
- *Broadland Properties Limited*
- *FCT Europe Limited*
- *Flowidea Limited*
- *IMI plc*
- *Ocean Investment Corporation plc*
- *Robinson Group of Companies Ltd.*
- *John Swire & Sons Limited*
- *Wittington Investments Limited*

Personal donors like Stuart Wheeler, chairman and chief executive of spread betting firm IG Index has donated £5 million to the Conservative Party.

Lord Ashcroft donated over £1 million in 1999, whilst he was not registered to pay tax in UK. Lord Blyth of Rowington also a Tory contributor was head of arms sales at the Ministry of Defence for four years.

The political contenders have discovered the joys of fund-raising breakfasts and dinners. Among their favourite venues are the Grosvenor House hotel on Park Lane, the Rosebery Room at the Mandarin Oriental hotel in Knightsbridge and even the private dining room of the Thomas Goode tea shop on South Audley Street, Mayfair.

These venues are hardly the places for the general public or the homeless on the streets. The lack of transparency of party funding at such venues is closed to the general public, for obvious reasons.

Most businessmen and corporations donate to parties not because they admire their politicians. They give cheques to whichever party is in government - hence the defection of many 'Tory' corporate backers to Labour.

As a result 'relaxed regulations' for such corporations and tax cuts for wealthy individuals are guaranteed. The returns for donating handsomely are positions of authority, like knighthood's, peerages or access to shadow Cabinet Ministers.

This is the price of Western politics.

These wealthy contributors are effectively the real lawmakers of society, and democracy is a reflection of their will and not the so-called peoples. Democracy is evidently a fallacy and it's a system that misleads the electorate into believing that the majority of people's opinions matter. The reality is clear the capitalists are the real rulers.

- ◆ The rulers and the current politicians in the Western & Muslim world manifest Western politics and are only motivated by benefit.
 - ◆ Contrast this to the nature of politics in Islam, how there is a harmony between peoples criteria and the laws in society – both are based on the worship of Allah (swt) not upon benefit. Use examples from seerah, lives of Khalifs, etc. Highlight that even in difficult situations the Khalifs ruled motivated by the worship to Allah rather than their own whim.
 - ◆ The Kuffar are motivated to enter politics for personal benefit, we as Muslims are obliged to enter politics as a worship to Allah. For us it is obligatory to work to look after the affairs of the Ummah, all of us need to engage in this – which means working to re-establish the Khilafah.
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Reference

Election turns ugly

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott has been involved in an angry scuffle in which punches were thrown - only hours after the launch of the Labour manifesto.

Mr Prescott appeared to hit out after being hit by an egg outside a Labour Party rally in North Wales.

A 29-year-old man has been arrested.

The trouble followed angry scenes in Birmingham where Prime Minister Tony Blair was confronted by a cancer patient's partner complaining about health spending.

John Prescott said in a statement on Wednesday night: "I got off my bus into an already hostile crowd.

"I walked through all the jostling and I was attacked by an individual.

"In the melee that followed I clearly defended myself.

"I believe that someone is now being questioned by the police, and it would be quite improper and quite wrong to add any further comment."

Egg thrown

An egg was thrown at Mr Prescott as he arrived at the Little Theatre, in Rhyl, North Wales, to address a Labour Party rally.

One eyewitness, farm labourer Ron Ingram, said: "Somebody threw an egg and Prescott just turned around and thumped them.

"I saw it.

"We were just protesting.

"The egg hit him and he hit out.

"There was pushing and shoving going on something terrible. It got quite nasty."

Mr Prescott was trapped against a wall before party supporters intervened.

He was led to safety by police.

Protesters, with placards in support of farmers and hunting, had earlier gathered outside the theatre.

Brendan Murphy, Conservative candidate for the Vale of Clwyd, which includes the town of Rhyl, called on the Deputy Prime Minister to resign.

Speaking outside the Little Theatre, Mr Murphy said: "He's just got to resign and get it over with.

Role model

"What sort of role model is he for young people.

"We don't want that kind of role model in Rhyl."

Mr Murphy said the protesters had every right to air their views outside the rally.

"Throwing eggs is almost a time honoured tradition in this country.

"It might hurt and sting your face a bit but it doesn't harm you.

"If politicians can't put up with things like that they shouldn't be in the job."

Later shadow cabinet member Andrew Lansley told BBC News Online: "All of us can be in positions when we can be provoked. But it is important not to lose your cool."

Asked whether the brawl would change William Hague's campaigning style, Mr Lansley said the Tory leader would continue to meet people.

For the Liberal Democrats, Simon Hughes said: "The guy should not have thrown the egg and the deputy prime minister should not have reacted in the way that he did.

"None of us is perfect but both of them have now to be dealt with by the law in the usual way," he said.

Earlier, Mr Blair faced the wrath of a cancer patient's distraught partner at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Sharron Storer, 38, was outraged that no bed had been available on Monday in the hospital's bone marrow unit for her partner, who has non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of lymphatic cancer.

Better facilities

"Would you like to tell me what you are going to do to give these people better facilities?," she asked the prime minister.

The prime minister said afterwards that more investment was being put into the health service but that change took time.

Education Secretary David Blunkett told Channel 4 News that there were hundreds of thousands of patients were happy with their treatment in the NHS.

"There is still an absolutely enormous challenge in turning round the lack of investment and neglect.

"I am very sorry about Sharron Storer's partner. I just wished she'd voted in 97 and I wish she would vote this time."

The BBC's political editor Andrew Marr said: "I cannot remember Labour having such a single bad day of election campaigning in my time reporting politics."

William Hague joined in the controversy during a speech in the Midlands.

He said: "As Tony Blair discovered in Birmingham today, careful choreography and planted questions cannot shield him from the anger of ordinary voters."

BBC