

Comment by Michael C H Jones

Bob Carr has a lot to answer for. As a so-called history buff he is hoping - but escape is unlikely as there are too many loose threats to his political career since university days at NSW and ALP Youth Council. Ironically it maybe that his life-long hope to be Australian Foreign Minister is the one step too far - the head above the parapet that gets the political sniper's bullet. Whatever and whenever it is, the whole sorry story of the aspirations of a train-driver's son will unravel quickly.

Then again perhaps immediate direct action can camouflage the situation? A brisk walk to the Prime Minister's office and a steely tap on Julia's shoulder with the announcement that Bob has agreed to be Kevin's Deputy Prime Minister with six or seven new frontbench Cabinet Ministers. " No Julia, there will be no executions, just banishment overseas like former Governor General John Kerr - we will even subsidise re-locations to Wales and coalmines. Tell Bill that he has his choice." It won't happen I hear you scream - but Bob's in trouble I reply. And he has a reputation.

You see Julian Assange, backed by that nest of legal conspirators in the UK and Australia fueling his rebellion, has now launched a campaign out of Victoria for the Australian Senate in the distant September 2013 election. Bob was going to raise Julian's plight with the Swedes but now can't because of his candidature - "solidarity forever" with the Labor Party even if it is no longer Social Democratic but AWU !! We used to have a hifalutin name in the 1960s called "labourist" or maintaining trade union interests above everything - Yorkshire John would approve.

Now I know Bob was a reporter, not a trade union official, and therefore suffered greatly in his political ambitions for Lionel Bowen's federal seat. But through thick and thin he showed his mettle on the big foreign policy issues and always "solidarity" with the Americans no matter what. OK a few minor skirmishes to show his independent credentials. But the organising for Israel in the 70s was brilliant even though some others may have had drinking problems. Environmentalism was a beaut 'picture opportunity' idea in the 1990s and no thank yous were required - to Frank especially. Just keep on top of public opinion trends or the Alan Jones Show. Master rapture and hubris as the Premier of the world's greatest Olympics, accept awards and acolytes from every corner and rap on ships for public display - German leaders preferred.

But above all be well gone before the proverbial hits the fan - know nothing, say nothing, do nothing about corruption. Let another ICAC and Premier face the Eddie Obeid factional/corruption problem.

So Bob dropped the ball and watched the short term destruction of the NSW Labor Party - the one he led from 1988 to 2005. Now he watches the probable long term destruction of the Federal Labor Party. Social Democracy was only an intellectual "plaything" anyway - a good throwaway for the media and 'punters' as mate Graham Richardson would say - but Bob even Graham is warning about the destruction of the Labor Party under Gillard - that's the one you're Foreign Minister in !! The spotlight is on you Bob - no running away or hiding this time. Walk the Talk.

The issues are plentiful and the hypocrisy exposed more and more - it was always only about you Bob from university onwards, in the tradition of so many upwardly mobile trade unionists - Paul Howes come to mind among the younger ones - and party apparatchiks - it was the same in the Soviet Union. That feeling of inferiority never left you, the reassurance of branch meetings and wheller-dealing/numbers crunching was crucial to your career. Reading was just an adjunct to gaining/maintaining/promoting power - your supposed influence. Poor, poor Bob. Never risk your political position for a principal, you never found a great issue anyway - just acquiescence and obscuration on the major foreign policy issues of the last 50 years - you learned the survival art well.

So like Alexander Downer and David Hicks you have your inconvenience - Julian Assange. The question is not defending and protecting Australians overseas - the suicide hanging of an Australian in an Israeli 'hang-proof' isolation cell proves that - but how to pacify the US masters, and any device will do. Freedom of Information - merely babble-gab for naive people who can be opinion-poled by trusted media allies.

Am I bitter - absolutely. Bitter for the millions upon millions of Australians and peoples around the world who have been hurt, yes killed, by politicians like you - especially those like you who claim a righteous and intellectual high in ethical behaviour. So many issues of principal upon which you have not spoken, so many innocent women and children dead and not mourned. Heroes character assassinated and destroyed both politically and physically. However you are unfortunate as it is all turning to political jelly - in Australia you are facing the juggernaut of Tony Abbott, globally the US/EU faces the cultural behemoth of China.
Good luck in interesting times.