

Comment by Michael C H Jones

One of the frontline policies of the soon to depart Hu-Wen leadership team of the CPC Standing Committee of the Politburo in China was the fight against corruption. The rationale was that corruption would destroy the Communist Party and therefore the PRC Government in the eyes of the people. The likely new General Secretary of the CPC and therefore President of the PRC, Xi Jinping, has also in part made his reputation as an anti-corruption fighter. But Bloomberg in an extensive article reports Xi and his extended family are worth approximately US\$376 million:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-06-29/xi-jinping-millionaire-relations-reveal-fortunes-of-elite.html>

Specifically: "an 18 percent indirect stake in a rare- earths company with \$1.73 billion in assets; and a \$20.2 million holding in a publicly traded technology company. The figures don't account for liabilities and thus don't reflect the family's net worth". However "No assets were traced to Xi, who turns 59 this month; his wife Peng Liyuan, 49, a [famous People's Liberation Army singer](#); or their daughter, the documents show. There is no indication Xi intervened to advance his relatives' business transactions, or of any wrongdoing by Xi or his extended family".

Does this sound familiar. All over the world the leaders' hands are clean, it is just their terrible and distant relatives to blame? And absolutely no assistance was received from on high.

What's this got to do with Australia? Well the hundreds of thousands of Chinese businessmen, students and tourists now beginning to "flood" Australia bring their own standards of behaviour with them - "to be rich is glorious" as the second great leader Deng said. And just read the transcripts of some of the recent court cases concerning Chinese "entrepreneurs" in all senses of the word.

A form of corruption is the crime of drug trafficking.

Glenda Kwek reports Australian Federal Police Deputy Commissioner Andrew Colvin saying "Last financial year was the most successful year for the AFP with a haul of more than 14 tonnes of illicit drugs and more than \$100 million worth of assets". But the "bust" in recent days was for "smuggling a record half-tonne haul of heroin and ice into Australia. The 558-kilogram haul has an estimated street value of \$500 million". Hence we are talking about billions of dollars on the street of drug merchandice and all its associated activities and social impacts whether users, healthcare workers, and families etc.

Seven arrests were made - 4 Hong Kong nationals and three Western Sydney men.

Now these events have been occurring for years, except the problems just keep getting bigger and bigger despite what our police may say. Thank heavens the US gun culture does not exist in this country, although acts of drive-by shootings seem to be a passage to manhood in certain suburbs of Sydney at least, otherwise we would have a Northern Mexico situation on our waterfronts.

During my 25 years on the Executive of Chamber and extensive dealings with the Chinese community, both Australian and Overseas, nothing surprises me. Bags with millions of dollars, latest gun-ware, shady dealings with all sorts of public figures who I can not name outside a Royal Commission or a Parliamentary Inquiry with proper protections including physical. It's like Sydney's brothels everyone uses them except your son, brother, husband and father. Drugs is part of the culture, for better or worse, and it is just a question of an equal distribution of the profits and equal opportunities for men and women, ethnics, disabled and so on. Cynicism at its worst might you say, you bet.

If any politician is silly enough to become a crime/corruption fighter, then he should start with the Gambling Industry. End the government taxes, direct and indirect, come down hard on corruption in the various police forces, and thoroughly scrutinise the participants at the casinos. Not many years ago some information "leaked" concerning one Chinese gentleman, who subsequently did time for

drug, heroin, trafficking. Allegedly he gambled about AU\$100 million in 6 months and absolutely no one asked questions.

Just think of the organisational requirements to distribute billions of dollars worth of drugs throughout Australia and the arrangements needed to conceal the proceeds. It is far more than bikie gangs, unless all their members now have MBAs and management consulting experience. Corruption is deep in all strata of our society. And the existing laws make honest police basically blind, deaf and dumb.

It has often been said that excluding Israel Australia is the 51st state of the USA. Well that country now has competition with a capital "c" in all areas of humanity including corruption and crime - China.

Postscript: If you think I am alarmist about guns note a recent report by the Australian Institute of Criminology and the Australian Crime Commission estimate of a total of about 250,000 guns on the "grey market" - <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/political-news/crime-gangs-6-police-1-only-a-fraction-of-stolen-firearms-recovered-20120802-23ihz.html> One big question is where do these guns come from?