

Comment by Michael C H Jones

My views on Julia Gillard and her parliamentary union supporters such as Bill Shorten and Paul Howes have been consistently and trenchantly unfriendly for three years - you never in political or personal life countenance and reward treachery. In all of my almost 50 years as a member of the ALP we always 'Kept the Faith' through the mainly bad times - Arthur Calwell was never humiliated despite coming from another media age, Gough Whitlam irrespective of his monumental leadership failures was allowed to contest the 1977 Federal Election and remained an 'icon' , Bob Hawke has been excessively lauded as the 'consensus' Prime Minister who opened up Australia, Paul Keating admired if recently forgotten for his toughness and policy determination. There have also been degrees of respect for Labor Opposition leaders Kim Beasley, Simon Crean and Mark Latham . Bill Hayden as Opposition Leader is as revered but for different reasons as was Doc Evatt. In saying this it does not mean I have agreed with all their views on specific policy issues nor their decisions and leadership from time to time.

But the bottom line is simply that Julia Gillard could never have beaten John Howard at the Federal Election in November 2007. Kevin Rudd did because a majority of the Australian people wanted him, in part because he said the factional union control of the ALP would be ended. Julia Gillard was always known as a factional union warrior with allegedly strong 'socialist left' views re Socialist Forum. I was almost expelled from the Party in 1980/81 for highlighting the hypocrisy and self-serving nature of many of their spokespersons. She furthered her political ambition through the Australian Union of Students in 1983 and the Australian Workers Union re Slater & Gordon in 1987. She got into parliament in 1998 with credentials as a "feminist" for drafting affirmative action rules within the Victorian ALP and as a leader of EMILY'S List. Hence she never has had broad electoral appeal.

Gillard could only ever become Prime Minister through treachery. In my view, supported by oral testimony. the dumping of Kevin Rudd was discussed prior to him being elected Prime Minister. Her treachery, and that of Bill Shorten, Paul Howes and the other trade union factional warriors is not only to Kevin Rudd, but to the Australian Labor Party and to the Australian people. They represent the most despicable "stalinists" in Australian history. And what is so shocking is that so many parliamentarians and ordinary supporters of the Labor Party can not recognise it. What hope do we have to change the values and attitudes of the Australian people on policy issues of substance when the Party countenances the last three years?

I have always been advised not to stick my head out - or at least not so far. Things could change dramatically this week, so why not wait. Good people, nice people, sensible people always say that. However the question is neither Rudd nor Gillard, not even a Liberal or Labor Party Federal Government. It is about the moral fibre of the country, the character of the Australian people, their ability to take responsibility for their own destinies. Simply relying on the leadership of those currently in parliament is the shortest route to economic and social disaster. We will have to wait at least another generation for honorable inspiration.

It's risky but with the rise of global institutions, and the spreading of what was in another

age called cosmopolitanism, Peoples Diplomacy has already bi-passed national parliaments and is rapidly eroding concepts of 'state sovereignty'. For these reasons most of likely future Prime Minister Tony Abbott's policies are unworkable or destined to have short life-times. For example we do not have to worry about the sea-worthiness of those Collins Class submarines, nor the building of the ASIO headquarters in Canberra, or even trade with China as US drones, information surveillance and oil-shale production will take care of these matters!!

The ALP has to totally revamp its policy formulation structure and membership recruitment. I very seldom agree with the comment of Paul Sheehan but two paragraphs are obvious:

"Everyone knows who calls the shots in the Gillard government. This is why it is going to be destroyed by an electorate in which 87 per cent of private sector workers are not union members".

"Union corruption is going to haunt Gillard, the Labor brand, in the coming months. And let us not forget that Victoria Police are continuing an investigation, and issuing search warrants, into money laundering by former officials of the Australian Workers Union at a time when Gillard was providing legal advice to people who were union officials then and are under police investigation now."

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/gillard-held-firm-in-union-grasp-20130623-2oqkd.html#ixzz2X5ou3GFG>

What is, or should be Rudd's strategy in the light of a very unlikely draft by the Cabinet, forget about the Labor caucus, to return as Prime Minister? Lucifer himself could not engineer a Labor victory in September, and God certainly would not want to do so. Rudd must re-engage with his Christian principles, be true to himself with many confessionals, and play a leadership role in the terrible trauma that is about to descend on the Party - its very existence is now in the balance with all the implications for Party politics, Parliament, Democracy and Human Rights in this country. And at a time when the economic and political pressures from near Asia and Indauspac generally will be enormous.

Within our resources intellectually, financially and time, Chamber as a Think/Do Tank has been raising these issues of Governance at many levels, as well as supporting Special Projects in Australia and China, for over a decade since the PRC was admitted to the WTO (World Trade Organisation) in late 2001. We have never had much confidence in Australian government and especially their leaders during this period. On the other hand with all its democratic and Human Rights deficiencies Chinese leadership has been extraordinary. US President Obama looks good only in contrast to his predecessor Bush. German leadership stands out in the EU. The BRICS apart from China have been patchy and kindred nations such as Turkey, Iran, Indonesia, Mexico and possibly Nigeria and Argentina are economically fragile. For all of them the glue of anti-US hegemony is not terribly strong as 'state sovereignty' issues have become bargaining chips in the major global institutions such as the G20, IMF and World Bank. Australia as a permanent member of the UN Security Council has an opportunity to bring the key challenges to the attention of the Australian people, a major

educational opportunity if we are to make Australia in the Asian Century a reality. So far it has been abject failure everywhere.

Michael C H Jones

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