

## We The People

Program 136

It's just not Cricket Bill



Australian politics appears to be quite adversarial and essentially between the two parties of the Coalition and Labor. The Greens represent an array of unrelated platforms and are not an alternative government option in my view but do have much to offer as the champions of the environment. Now Australia finds itself in a precarious position socially and financially at the moment. Socially because of a division in thinking and an ongoing loss of culture. Financially because the nation is on its knees with massive federal debt producing a daily interest bill of \$22 million dollars. That money could be better used elsewhere in the country and for those who need a hand. \$22 million in daily interest is obscene. Most thinking people know full well how we got to this point and my aim today is not to dwell on its genesis but rather to offer a productive view on its exodus beginning with some wisdom from the great cricketer Sir Donald Bradman. How Sir Donald Bradman and politics are relevant will become apparent in a moment.

Bradman or The Don, as he was known, came from humble beginnings in Cootamundra in NSW. However much of his early years were at Bowral south of Sydney where he sharpened his skills by batting a ball off a corrugated iron water tank in the back yard. The corrugations created a reflected flight path so unregulated that his motor skills were honed to perfection. Humble beginnings and a drive for mastering the game of cricket formed his sporting goal and framed his sporting future. In 1948 he famously took the Australian cricket team known as the Invincibles to England. Sir Donald Bradman lived 92 years and met with cricket legends Shane Warn and Sachin Tendulkar just before he died in 2001 as these were his favourite players at the time. I wonder what lessons were shared.

I am of the view that most of the world's wisdom resides in the past where humble beginnings were worn as a badge of honour and hand outs were not expected. People made their own way in life and were responsible for their actions and this was the nursery for common sense. A good measure of wisdom grew in people and so as we witness society moving away from these precepts so we see selfishness on the rise to the loss of all and this great nation. Now back to where we started with the poor state of Australia's financial health and a word of wisdom from Don Bradman. Australia faces a moment in time when if we don't address the financial challenge at hand this country will surely decline and quickly, to the direct detriment of our children and grand children. So it's a political fight too and on the field of play we would be advised to take note of some Bradman wisdom which is I see as addressing Bill Shorten leader of the federal Opposition. The truth is that without his help we cannot effectively climb out of the monetary hole we are in. Don Bradman in 1947 when reflecting on a competitive game and being mindful of the crowd said..... ***A captain naturally plays to win but at the same time he should make the game as attractive as possible. There are times when that proves to be difficult especially when the policy is dictated by the opposing skipper. The truth was that the batsmen by first refusing to run for ordinary singles, tried to force me to play their game. For declining to allow my opponents to call the tune, I got the blame. It takes two captains, both intent on making the game attractive to achieve that end.***

So Mr Shorten the country needs you to be a competitive but fair skipper and to pull together with Mr Abbott for the sake of the national game. This would be a noble thing to do as the Opposition leader and the people would thank you for doing your part. We the People have good memories yet politicians seem to forget that. We are the crowd on the hill waiting to see a great game played for our benefit and played hard and fast but fairly. This is a time when we all need to pull together and finish the game of entitlement and free runs which was never going to be sustainable and yet we live in a country which can afford to help folk who want to catch opportunity with both hands. We must not go down the path of Greece, Ireland or the United States and so many other countries. Mr Shorten it's your call, heads or tails. Without your cooperation we're stumped, it's just not cricket Bill.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley**