

We The People  
Program 274 November 6, 2017  
We the People 274 Thinking



Good Day to you. Recently I came across the real life story of a little girl and her father who had an interesting experience. The English summer is very mild by Australian standards and so a pleasant warm sunny day was a good opportunity for Andre Spicer to encourage his young 5 year old daughter to learn a little about being an entrepreneur. Having been to a school fete and with a local music festival nearby they thought they might set up a lemonade stand. Homemade lemonade is always popular if fresh and so they made up large jugs and set up a stand on the corner of the street. Business was great and the five year old was having fun selling cups of the lemonade to happy locals and the father was thrilled to be doing this with his daughter. Then along came the law and four local Council enforcement officers from the London Borough of Hamlets and advised them what they were doing was illegal and issued them a fine for 150 English pounds or about \$250 Australian dollars. The daughter burst into tears assuming she had done something wrong and the pair packed up and went home with the infringement notice in hand.

The father, Andre Spicer is a Professor of Organisational behaviour and thought through the whole episode which ended in a tweet and a media fire storm and the Council withdrew the fine. Andre's mind was focused on the broader issue of why clever people do very stupid things. He reflected on the excessive control by councils and governments and especially so with children where that control adversely programs the child for life. While it brought home to me that while our local Council is often stupid they are not alone as the actions of the English Tower Hamlets Council suggests. My point today is not so much this inequity but rather about simply sitting and thinking. Then it hit me, people may not think enough and especially so in bureaucracies where every minute of every day is tightly controlled and so much so that thinking for one's self is forbidden. In other words using common sense is outlawed because it requires a person to think. This was described in George Orwell's book '1984' and the dystopia he saw coming.

The more I thought about 'thinking' the more I thought, hang on I'm onto something here and so I did a little study and whipped off a quick note to the Mayor as my contribution to better governance. I soon realised there are some pretty bright people out there who's wisdom has been recorded. Henry Ford said *"whether you think you can or you think you can't.....your right"*. Albert Einstein said *"we cannot solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them"*. Finally Abraham Lincoln....*"when I get ready to talk to people, I spend two thirds of my time thinking about what they want to hear and one third thinking about what I want to say."* It seems to me that when you look around and really think for a while you must soon realise that much is a man made illusion and that government is focused on control by throttling free speech and high-jacking the education system where our youth are kept well away from common sense. Clearly, thinking for one's self is a dying art and more so when government handouts are available and generous. To make Australia great again we must think carefully before voting and praising those who are not praise worthy. We must think about what the administration is doing to society and how they spend our money. We should think on the school curriculum and its contents and think about the immense joy of our grandchildren having a back yard to play in and not accept the confines of high rise and concrete. The less we think the more we are controlled by careless government and by publically owned media and those few businesses which are corrupt and greedy.

The lemonade stand is a good example of much that is wrong in the world and why in the end it's our grand-children who pay the biggest price. Today think about writing your own epitaph because you will find it revealing and probably funny. Think about a single action or decision you might take to make society a better place just as so many do at this radio station. Be different and today be like A.A Milne who said.... *"Sometimes I sits and thinks and sometimes I just sits"*.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley**