

We The People

Program 94

To Vote or Not to Vote



In order to harness the vast reservoir of knowledge and experience in Australian society, think tank groups are created. The best of these think tanks will be driven by the goal of greater security and prosperity in a world of uncertain economic and environmental issues. An open Australia, engaged with the world within a society which contributes to world peace and prosperity and environmental cadence. Of these the Lowy Institute in Australia is held in high regard as an independent policy think tank.

Recently the Institute released findings that should strike fear into the heart of Australians. They found that in a poll, 39% of Australians aged 18 to 29 didn't care what kind of government is in power. In other words, democracy was not all that important. We are not on our own as those under 40 in Pakistan prefer military rule or Islamic law over democracy. In Sweden over 25% of young people think it would be much better to be less democratic and ruled by a strong dictator. In Egypt 22% of people favour a non democratic government while Russians prize a strong hand more than democracy. In Libya only 15% want democracy while 40% wanted a strong leader. Finally most of the 135 ethnic groups in Burma don't want democracy they just want freedom. It is very worrying that youth in so many countries are indifferent or disillusioned with democracy and especially here in Australia.

Now we must ask ,why it is so. I can offer some clarity in this regard and it involves trust and equity. It is a fact that as the bureaucracy grows so control is wrenched from our political representatives as bureaucrats obstruct progress and change, with an ever increasing blockade of fruitless regulations and systems. To make matters worse our politicians conduct themselves badly and bicker and fight for supreme power and if you doubt that just take a look at Canberra. What an embarrassment and what an insult to common sense. Now as the influence of bureaucracy increases and their ranks swell the politicians become their slaves. In effect that means we are slaves and if you question that just look at Gold Coast City Council where waste and power is the biggest game in town. Now if our precious democracy has been high jacked it's never more evident than in the loss of freedom of speech. Political correctness is a scourge and an insult to thinking people and it shadows our every move plus the absurd level of censorship enshrined in law where if you have a view you run the risk of being called a bigot a sexist a bully, divisive or a racist. Is it any wonder the youth in Australia is disillusioned with democracy as they judge by what they see.

We are not truly free if you measure our democracy by Lincoln's words where he rightly described it as government of the people, by the people, for the people. In our country we are afraid of the government where instead they should take heed of us. Our young people see political gridlock and impasse where common sense is stifled and our rights are trampled on. Our youth see stupidity and waste and debt so great it will be intergenerational. Their inheritance is massive government debt for the next 30 years, so why would they feel kindly toward our system of government. Little do our young citizens know that in time of war or deprivation a nation must unite to preserve the hard won freedom we have. Perhaps this is what it will take to get George St and Canberra to return our rights and freedom. It is we the people who run this country, it is we the people who must pay the debt and it is we the people who must influence the young that a true real democracy is a worthy goal. In this fight for freedom it is also our duty to preserve our culture and it is the duty of government to look after Australians first.

Public officials are much more responsive to the privileged than to average citizens and the least affluent. Citizens of lower and moderate income levels speak in a whisper that is lost on the ears of inattentive government officials, while the advantaged roar with a clarity and consistency that policy-makers readily hear and routinely follow. This is why many people are frustrated and disappointed with our political system. Instead of a democracy where all citizens have an equal say in the governing process, some organisations and individuals have a disproportionate and unfair influence over what the government does. The result is that the power and greed of the few too often win out over the needs of the many.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley