

We The People

Program 95

Indifference to the Light on the Hill



As with any other thinking Australian I am careful for whom I vote. I have arrived at the conclusion that all is not as it seems in politics and that some politicians are poor magicians and shysters at best. Theirs is a side show we pay for dearly and their general indifference toward we the people is something we seem to tolerate with curious indignation. Over time I have voted for all shades of politics and try to place my vote for the person who will best represent my interests. I am not a rusted on voter of any political party and I am not wedded to an ideology which has ceased to serve us or which displays indifference to the public it should serve. Indifference is the passive enemy of Australia as its gives licence to those who would corrupt and undermine all we stand for. When we place our mark on the ballot paper we must be sure that indifference has not made blunt our edge for justice in society.

Now looking back over the last 6 years in federal politics I am appalled at the waste and indecision and the public debt weighing us down. Global financial crises or not who could possibly defend the profound waste and mismanagement which has left this small nation with an intergenerational debt of a third of a trillion dollars. In 1949 the then Labor Prime Minister Ben Chifley, gave a landmark speech in which he ignited the phrase, *"the light on the hill"*. Chifley said, *I try to think of the Labor movement, not as putting an extra sixpence into somebody's pocket or making somebody Prime Minister or Premier but as a movement bringing something better to the people, better standards of living, greater happiness to the mass of the people. We have a great objective - the light on the hill - which we aim to reach by working for the betterment of mankind not only here but anywhere we may give a helping hand. If it were not for that, the Labor movement would not be worth fighting for.* Well, there was no indifference in that discourse and it laid out a worthy philosophy and noble aspiration for their movement.

So what has happened. Well 3 years ago Prime Minister Rudd was deposed by his own people because the government had apparently lost its way. He was and is a remarkable failure. Now 3 years later his assassin, Prime Minister Gillard, is deposed by the same forces of indifference and self acclamation and they reinstated their first failed leader they deposed in Kevin Rudd who we are assured, has changed his ways and found new wisdom. This is twice now we the people have been treated with political indifference and have been robbed of our right under the constitution to pass judgement at the ballot box when it counted. Apparently the faceless men believe they can, at a whim, usurp the people and our right to choose, such is their indifference to us. Are we to believe that in just 6 years yet another Labor government has lost its way and if so it's a failure of their political DNA. This makes a mockery of democracy but so great is their ambition to hold office they try all manner of things to justify their party of self righteous deceit.

Today we seem to be very light on when it comes to inspirational leaders and honesty in politics. I look back on Ben Chifley's noble speech and his light on the hill and it bears no resemblance to Labor today and the treachery within their ranks pitting brother against brother and sister against sister. Are we to fall for their lies and financial negligence again and are we to stand by and watch as our country is overtaken by queue jumpers. It is this indifference in politics that worries me and the current Labor rabble of deposed leaders and union hacks has effectively extinguished Chifley's light on the hill as sure as night follows day. Indifference is our political and social adversary occupying a strange and unnatural state in which the lines blur between light and darkness, dusk and dawn, crime and punishment, cruelty and compassion and good and evil. Take up your right to vote without indifference and appreciate the privilege before you and choose wisely as our country faces a very uncertain future.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley.