



We The People
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We the People 282 The Machinery of Corruption

Good day to you. A few weeks ago I attended a public rally at Coolangatta on the beach front. The rally was a show of public solidarity against the overdevelopment and over population of Coolangatta. It was timely and it was right, not just as a demonstration against the Komune development but as a broad statement that the people are fed up being treated like mushrooms.....you know, kept in the dark and fed on the excrement of big business and waste product of odious politicians. People of all types and ages attended but you could readily see they were ordinary folk like us, trying to stop a careless juggernaut from crashing through their lives and wrecking free speech and democracy as a result. This rally was really about the impending revolution against a dark and shameful fraudulence infiltrating the Gold Coast and destroying all the good things we have and just for fast money and momentary business glory. The anger of the people was palpable but in a small way this was their finest hour when against all the odds, freedom and people power stretched forth its mighty hand and gripped the issue squarely by the throat.

It is clear to me the Queensland State government doesn't care about the Gold Coast and the rights or lives of the people. It's clear the Council care not for our opinion nor our wishes and see us as just part of a euphemistic 'borrow pit' from which to extract the people's capital. This political machinery is supposed to serve us but both the State and the Council have developed an unprincipled and deceitful life of their own and lost their way and convince themselves they know best.....well they don't. We the people should be the epicentre of their reason for existence, we the people must prevail and this is why the boiling anger of the people is at hand. This is what the rally represented. Have no doubt the State government and the Gold Coast Council are now on public notice as the people across the Gold Coast wake from their lazy slumber to the unprecedented mess we've had thrust upon us.

In 1964 Mario Savio an American activist and member of the Berkley Free Speech Movement gave a passionate speech at the University of California. He railed against the greedy establishment which tried to suppress free speech and he argued that the 'machine' was utterly broken. He had the intonation and cadence of John F Kennedy which gave him an authority as it did the President. His speech has a message for us down through the ages because we face not only suppression and the ignorant leadership of the times but as a consequence the irreversible damage to the Gold Coast and this nation. Sometimes great leaders emerge and deliver a unifying message without fanfare but their message is as potent as the best artillery. Theirs is the great clarion call delivered from a position of relevance without needing any endorsement because its fundamentally right. Here are the words from Mario Savio some 50 years ago..... ***"There is a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part. You can't even passively take part! And you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop! And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it — that unless you're free, the machine will be prevented from working at all."***

The political and bureaucratic machinery on the Gold Coast is broken because 'we the people' simply don't count, we are not listened to, we are ignored and our voice made fun of behind their closed doors. Governance guilty of this kind of behaviour is committing a kind of treason against the people. Self induced deafness to the crowd is a misuse of power and is a kind of corrupt governance acting in a manner which lessens the standard of life for the people. This is offensive and detestable. There are many irate groups now emerging across the Gold Coast with some taking the Council to court, such is their anger. Whether it's an affront to the Spit or the sale of public parks, the destruction of Black Swan lake, over-population or a grid locked M1 we the people are fed up and angry. We are sick and tired of the lies and the duplicity. We are over the egos and the posturing and the self indulgent who seek to measure the quality of life through the fist of power. This is the age of madness and the age of the broken political machine. Fight the good fight my friends else the Gold Coast and a decent future is lost forever.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley