

We The People

Program 61

Australia's UN Seat of Shame



Friends, I tell it as I see it and try to be impartial remembering that a bell tolls best when struck with the right hammer. So the clang of self indulgence and the sound of personal gain at the expense of we the people does not ring true in my ears. Now recently Australia's resident show pony Kevin Rudd puddled himself with excitement after Australia achieved a 2 year temporary seat on the United Nations Security Council. Mr Rudd has been side lined of course but now Bob Carr takes his place as Mr. Shallow. So many are saying it's a wonderful thing to have secured the UN seat but I don't and there are a number of reasons why. Let's start at the beginning as I make my case.

First let's expose the United Nations as controlled by a small group of supreme brokers interested only in power and influence and little else. The UN Councils permanent members of the USA, UK, China, Russia and France have the power of veto and do as they wish so why on earth does anyone think they will listen to Australia or others. Next, let's take a look at the small nations of Lithuania, El Salvador, Hungary, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Oman, Malta and Liechtenstein and ask this question. Why have our foreign ministers visited these countries recently and made promises of aid and indeed if you can even tell me where Saint Kitts & Nevis is I would be surprised. What on earth has all that got to do with Australia and our people and the answer is absolutely nothing as it just wastes more of our taxes but apparently aided our misguided UN bid. Why have we promised aid to Latin America and the Caribbean as it's a selfish waste of Australian tax payers' dollars and is nothing more than international grand standing producing a very hollow ring indeed. Sadly this is in keeping with our federal government of show ponies and vested interests. Our place is in the Pacific Asian region where we trade and can bring some influence to bear.

However the main reason I know our temporary UN seat is a farce and morally corrupt is because of what it represents to over 50,000 residents on the Gold Coast. That's the number of Gold Coast folk who live in poverty. Poverty is defined as the pronounced deprivation of well-being, or the inability to satisfy one's basic needs. In fact a recent ACOSS survey found that 2,265,000 Australians including 575,000 Australian children lived in households below the most austere poverty line. So where has the lucky country gone in this time of plenty and maybe we can ask the UN for some assistance now we have a temporary toddler's seat on the Council. This is the primary reason I am sure the fleeting UN seat the show ponies have won is a travesty of justice, a waste of money and we are about to provide more aid to countries I've never heard of and to those who lie about their illegal immigration. How can we hold our head high in the world and pretend to be able to bring influence to bear when our own people are starving at a rate which is staggering. How can Mss. Rudd and Carr and Julia Gillard be proud of the UN win when it won't benefit this country at all. How can we feel any pride when over 50,000 people on the Gold Coast live in poverty.

We have reached a point in history where the apathy of the average Australian has empowered this dubious federal government and wedded us to intergenerational debt of Big Ben proportions. We are in no position to spend well over \$25 million on bribes to gain a temporary seat in a shady organisation which is at best slow to make decisions and brim full of double standards. Our government should feed our own first. In contrast if the current and previous prime ministers left politics today they would each receive about \$20 million in pension and benefits by age 82. These are the reasons I decry the recent UN win and shamefully our fellow Australians living in poverty know that the bell tolls for them. Charity and humility should begin at home.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley