

COPE 61



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FOR THE ATTENTION OF:
Professor Sir Ian Kennedy
IPSA
Steel House
11 Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9LH

CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Dear Sir Ian

“POWER CORRUPTS – ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY”

These words were used by my late dear father in law in describing the behaviour of some of the despot vile dictators who have littered our history and left abhorrent legacies. The same quotation could be used to describe the behaviour of some of the slippery, seedy bunch of MP's who's cheating has now been exposed.

What legacy or inspiration will they leave behind?

Let me tell you the actions that have inspired me over the years. In the fifties I was shopping in the Market Hall in Bolton, my home town, and I found a £5 note, I was around 9 or so at the time. My mother insisted we immediately walk round to the Police Station and hand the note in as lost property. A long time later a Policeman knocked at our door and gave my mother the £5 note as no one had claimed it. What a great example and lesson to teach an impressionable child. My father, who was a hard working skilled craftsman, used to say “if ever you are asked to do a job, even if it is just to sweep the floor, do that job to the best of your ability”, another great example. My daughter, who has CF, has a husband, child, runs a home, mortgage etc and works in the NHS, refuses to claim benefits preferring to earn her own way in life, again what a great example.

My grandfather worked in a cotton mill from age 15 to age 65, he was deaf from the age of 17 through an accident whilst working, he received no benefits or compensation. When later in life his children urged him to claim benefits he said “I don't want handouts from any bugger”.

I, and many more people have been inspired by the quotation “DO THE RIGHT THING AND FEAR NO MAN”. I don't know who penned this, but inspirational words nonetheless.

9 Ashwood Crescent
Marple
Stockport
Cheshire
SK6 8AE

How many of the Nation will follow the behaviour of these MP's? By overstating their expenses, exaggerating spending on their income tax forms, diddling their employers. I suppose they could say "It was a gross admin error", or use whatever other feeble, pathetic excuse these MP's used.

In conclusion just as we, the rest of us would be punished for these misdemeanours, so must these MP's. Not just for the crime but for betraying the Nation, neglecting to leave a worthwhile legacy and for failing when they have had the opportunity because of their position, to inspire future generations.

Yours sincerely

Ray Atherton

P.S. Thank you for the opportunity to pen these comments, I wish other Authorities would allow the same licence.