

TWO MESSAGES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF

THERESA MAY

J'ACCUSE

In memory of Emile Zola, 1898

A (short) Charge Sheet Against our Current Government

1. You place party and the desire for power above country.

The referendum on our membership of the European Union was only ever about the Tory greasy pole. Most senior Tory Leavers neither expected nor particularly wished to win. As Michael Gove's wife said to him when the result came through,

“You were only supposed to blow the bloody doors off.”

David Cameron thought he could repeat John Major's coup and suppress his enemies in the party so not only did he decide on a referendum but, quite improperly, declared that he would regard the result as binding. He needed to up the stakes so he ignored how the Act had been framed for the referendum to be advisory only. When he lost we had to witness the unedifying sight of Conservative comrades stabbing each other in the back in their desperation to climb that pole.

Our last General Election was unnecessary except as an attempt to prop up the power of the Prime Minister. When the attempt spectacularly backfired the power addiction still had to be fed somehow and so, after a quick shake of the money tree, a deal was done with the Democratic Unionist Party. We might also think of them as the Loyal Orange Lodge, for whom the initials L.O.L are so appropriate.

2. You promote and endorse charlatans and liars.

Even David Cameron had to sack Liam Fox because he was such a charlatan. But Theresa May had to promote him because nobody is better placed to sell off our family silver to the Americans than he. It is, after all, the only post Brexit plan that you have: sell off what Thatcher did not get round to selling off and make us a tax haven.

As for our Foreign Secretary, he has previously been sacked for lying but was appointed nevertheless. His passing acquaintance with truth hides behind a buffoonery that has made him popular in the Party. But in order to control any mischief he could make for the leadership he had to be given a job where most of his mischief making merely upsets other countries. They don't matter. How many votes do they have in the 1922 committee?

Priti Patel broke all the rules when she decided to create a personal foreign policy. She had to be sacked of course once Number Ten realised that the secret was out.

Who replaced her? Penny Mordaunt. She made up a claim that the UK could not veto Turkey's possible membership of the EU. When it came to persuading people to vote Leave truth was not her priority. And now she sits among the great and the good because Theresa May had to appoint a Leaver.

3. You stand for greed and privilege.

Increasing poverty and disadvantage is essential if the ultra rich are to retain their privileges. They are the ones that fund the Conservative Party. They are the ones that adorn the House of Lords where they get to vote on the housing and welfare and health of the poor.

When Gordon Brown was Chancellor the gap between rich and poor grew at a much slower rate. In 2010 the Tories turned the rich tap full on again while the poor tap now simply drips from a faulty washer.

Osborne was a Moral Deficit Denier.

4. You are indifferent to suffering and injustice.

Don't be ill in Tory Britain. Don't be disabled. Don't live in Yemen because we make money from your deaths. Don't be a Palestinian, especially in Gaza, because Theresa May celebrates genocide, apartheid, land theft and falsified history.

5. You have dumbed down political discourse and sold the people a false prospectus.

Thirty seven percent of the electorate voted to leave the EU. You offer them renewed sovereignty. And yet Theresa May's first instinct was to reach for the Royal Prerogative. Who is the Sovereign? Not those voters!

Instead of operating lawful powers to manage immigration you preferred a discourse of prejudice leading to hatred.

The sick and the disabled are now 'scroungers'. We no longer have welfare for all but 'benefits' for those at the bottom of the pile. The language we now must use to talk about fellow members of society discriminates and de-values the less fortunate.

6. And you are rubbish at government and politics.

Politics is about inclusive discussion of and arrival at public values. That is not your way. Your politics is confined within the Tory Party.

As for government, you intend to bring several Everests of legislation from the EU to be processed by our puny Parliament. The Commons will need to be totally re-structured if the necessary scrutiny is to be even halfway effective. Leader of the House Leadsom has not a clue about this.

Finally it has dawned upon you that you need another eight thousand civil servants. Do you imagine that down at the Labour Exchange (old fashioned term but surely that is what Brexit is all about) there are that many potential Sir Humphrey Applebys waiting to start work next Monday?

Cliff Jones

IN THE NAME OF GOD, GO!

Dissolution of the Long Parliament by Oliver Cromwell

His speech given to the House of Commons, 20 April 1653

It is high time for me to put an end to your sitting in this place, which you have dishonored by your contempt of all virtue, and defiled by your practice of every vice; ye are a factious crew, and enemies to all good government; ye are a pack of mercenary wretches, and would like Esau sell your country for a mess of pottage, and like Judas betray your God for a few pieces of money.

Is there a single virtue now remaining amongst you? Is there one vice you do not possess? Ye have no more religion than my horse; gold is your God; which of you have not barter'd your conscience for bribes? Is there a man amongst you that has the least care for the good of the Commonwealth?

Ye sordid prostitutes have you not defil'd this sacred place, and turn'd the Lord's temple into a den of thieves, by your immoral principles and wicked practices? Ye are grown intolerably odious to the whole nation; you were deputed here by the people to get grievances redress'd, are yourselves gone! So! Take away that shining bauble there, and lock up the doors.

In the name of God, go!

Oliver Cromwell - April 20, 1653

Note: the actual speech does not survive but the above is regarded as an accurate contemporary paraphrase. The 'bauble' is the mace. Its presence signifies the authority of Parliament to make law.

Cliff Jones 14th. November 2017