

**From Deputy Shona Pitman to all Members of the States of Jersey.
1st March 2007**

Subject: Senator Syvret - PPC investigation

Derek

I find myself in total disbelief at PPC's intention to proceed with a complaint against Senator Syvret's 'open letter' to Mr Brocken. Have the Committee really got so little understanding of its' role within the States and the sentiment of the Jersey people who are paying for this 'summoning' of the Senator today. All PPC are doing is playing into the hands of suspicion, that the majority of islanders already hold against this Government. Not at all a surprise to me, I have to admit, but seemingly so to PPC and the secret complainant(s) pushing for their 'investigation'. Though this is something that I can not just assign to these Members only, but to all too many individuals in Government who appear lost to the reality of 'ordinary' people as they strut around within the delusion of their Kingdom of Officialdom - I refer, of course, to the arrogant and morally bankrupt Members whose questionable commitment to democracy, honesty and equality leaves me little option but to view them as seeking power not to represent people, but for power's sake and status.

One only has to consider the recent policies that have been past through the States - taxes on education, basic food stuffs, childrens' clothes – as I have argued before, are these not the most basic materials of a modern democratic way of living? Not according to the majority of this Government who are quite happy with this, despite many telling the public quite categorically that they would oppose such taxation while lying through their teeth at the time of the election to get votes! Maybe PPC's time would be better spent investigating the 'standards' of all the right-wing con-artists who mislead the electorate in this way? Now that kind of behaviour really does bring the reputation of all the rest of us into 'disrepute'!

And what about States Members who are quite happy to support legislation that ensures that the super rich pay proportionally far less than the rest of us. 20% means 20%? That's what the Chief Minister, his Treasury Minister and Council lie to the people, isn't it? So...why not investigate the reality that if you're a multi-millionaire/billionaire, you'll actually only be paying 15%, 10%, 5% or even less! And then of course, we have 'big business' now paying even less tax or none at all, which will, of course, once again be picked up by the ordinary working person. Doesn't that fill all of you at PPC with pride as the 'Guardians of Political Standards'? Oh...and let's also just remember what Government does for big business; it not only crushes its' people with increasing taxation but also rips their identity from them by allowing the concrete and steel construction of the faceless and inherently soulless 'big city', and pursues policies with all fervour of some kind of quasi-religious zealot to shrink traditional industries that get in the way of Finance and Construction.

But hang on a minute, isn't this what the people want? Aren't they so well

informed, and hasn't Scrutiny been able to put their voice across to our 'new democratic' Government. Only on Tuesday, once again we hear that a Minister completely ignored Scrutiny by lodging a proposition to privatise Jersey Telecoms (another infamous and long discredited 'Thatcherite' policy this government has pursued) before the Scrutiny report is even finished. What about PPC spending some of its' precious time to investigate the standard of behaviour displayed by the wonderful States Members responsible for this?

Need any more proof? 'Real' consultation engenders change? If this was actually taking place and being respected by the Council of Ministers then would the 0/10, 20 % (doesn't) mean 20% and GST tax policies actually exist? Would we have an increasingly over-populated island, which suits Dandara so very well? And what about Education proposals that have been so strongly pursued, to over-burden hard working parents with university expenses for their children, and not affecting the rich? Again, doesn't the conduct of all those politicians who supported and voted for all of this fill your heart with pride? Oh yes, certainly far more necessary and worthwhile for the people of Jersey to carry out a witch-hunt against a Minister who upset a handful of Hurray Henrys and head-nodders, rather than investigate the standards of what it is difficult not to see as little more than political gangsters driving the Island full-speed toward the rocks of financial ruin! You know the ones, politicians who want to keep people as ill-informed as possible to ensure that the status quo remains and the same kind of politicians continue to dominate Government. Oh, you know...the arrogant, sycophantic ones, who are there to serve their own agendas and are running this Island like a benefit club for the super- wealthy tax avoiders, whilst witnessing the bleeding dry of the ordinary people of Jersey. And always with such a supercilious smile on their faces too!

I'm labouring the point I know, but then this action by PPC makes me so unbelievably angry in its underhandedness and duplicity. I could, without a shadow of doubt, go on with this litany of governmental shame for several pages but I hope you get the message. This complaint against Stuart is an absolute disgrace. As PPC's Chairman you should either demand that those gutless individuals behind this farcical complaint reveal their identities or else, withdraw their complaints. In fact, forget that – it isn't enough, reveal who these individuals are, charge them with bringing our Government into disrepute and drop the case against Stuart. If you don't feel able to do this, then the rightful course of action seems quite clear, you and the rest of PPC should do the decent thing and resign! Should you not, then I know at least one politician (or maybe six) who cares enough about the real interests of the people of Jersey to bring a vote of no confidence to highlight your collective ineptitude.

Shona