

Telephone

PENPEDAIRHEOL,
HENGOED.Date 29th April 2009

Sir Christopher Kelly,
Chairman,
Committee on Standards in Public Life,
Houses of Parliament,
London.

Dear Sir,

Re :- Pay and expenses for Members of Parliament.

During the course of your enquiry you will receive opinions from many and various members of the establishment, I would like to present a balancing opinion from an ordinary person far removed from the corridors of power.

Firstly, let me bring to your attention the condemnation of Bank Employees by members of all political parties. I believe the words 'Unethical' and 'Greedy' have been used on more than one occasion, yet we have the same greed displayed by members of parliament. Do you not find this a little hypocritical?

Secondly, let me give an alternative view of the value of these MPs. We are not talking Divinities here, we are not even talking about very nice people. A Member of Parliament, in the not so distant past, was elected to represent and serve the views and interests of the members of his/her constituency. Sadly this has now deteriorated to making the ordinary MP a 'Yes-man', a 'Nodder' and even a 'Second-Nodder' supporting the views of a small clique who decide the policy of any given Party. This is not what Democracy is about! We have government of the people, we have government by the people (At least a small controlling coterie.) but, we do not have government FOR THE PEOPLE. The payments they receive for this unethical function is, I believe, obscene and a highly inflated valuation of the services they deliver.

I was once told that politics is practical philosophy, and that serving the people was the greatest honour one could aspire to. The members of this parliament, and those of the last twenty to thirty years, have become self-serving cyphers for the party leaders. They no longer represent the people who elect them, but the party leaders. Representing the ordinary man in the street is, I am afraid far too lowly an occupation for these self-aggrandised puppets. To be effective they need humility, they are elected to serve the people, not to set themselves up as superior beings, bleeding every penny of Taxpayer's money that they can get their hands on.

You and your fellow investigators have an opportunity to correct this. Drastically reduce they payments these people receive. Put in curbs, so that they can only claim expenses for direct services to their constituents. If their Party wants their votes in Parliament, then let the Party pay for it. The Public can no longer afford them. By doing so you will radically change the type of people vying for these positions, so that we will get representation by Members who are genuinely interested in serving the people who elect them, and have the interests of the people at heart.

I believe that an MP should be honoured to serve his constituents for the minimum wage plus genuine out-of-pocket expenses, if not that, then certainly for a full package of the average wage, with no expenses. It is, after all, the MPs right to choose how and where they live, and it is important that they face the same constraints as every other citizen of the country who has to work away from home.

I am,
Yours Faithfully

D J. Jenkins.