

Sir Christopher Kelly,
Committee for the
Review of Parliament,
Houses of Parliament,
Westminster,
LONDON.

Dumfries,

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RECEIVED
29 MAY 2009

19th May, 2009.

Dear Sir Christopher Kelly,

We are living in a period of emergency and great challenge which have shown that our Parliamentary system, established over centuries and held so dear, has grown so infected with vested interests and outmoded traditions that it is no longer capable of serving the needs of the people.

In fact we need a radical reform of parliament. We are in a situation analogous to that which occurred during the Second World War and we need to use all the talents at our disposal to overcome the manifold problems which face our country.

1. The House of Parliament (the present House of Commons) should be limited to 600 members, composed of experts selected from the following fields – Law, Constitutional Law, International Law, Trade & Commerce Law; Trade Commerce & Industry; Trade Unions; Economists; Construction; Farming; Fishing; Fuel, Power & Transport; Aeronautical, Automotive, Civil, Electrical & Marine Engineering; Architects, Land Use Specialists & Urban Planners; Artists, Musicians, Film-makers, Novelists, Poets, Philosophers and Historians; Nuclear, Biological & Microbiological Scientists, Biochemists, Chemists, Physicists, IT Specialists, Surgeons, Medical Doctors, Neurologists, Psychologists & Oceanographers; Ecologists, Waste disposal & Recycling Specialists, Wind Wave & Coal Power Specialists; Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Educationalists – plus Defence & Military Experts, with each field contributing 12 experts.
2. To end the anti-democratic nature of the present system with its parties, whips and restrictions on independent thinking, these new Members of Parliament should be selected equally from each region of the United Kingdom on a random basis.
3. These new parliamentarians should sit in a quadrennial parliament.

4. They should examine the whole political structure of the state to determine policy priorities.
5. The system of taxation and the financing of state investment should be overhauled. Real control over the U.K. economy should be re-established in the face of distortions brought about by the impact of Multinational Corporations, tax dodges and tax havens.
6. The aim is to plan for an affordable, sustainable economy promoting the education, health and creativity of our people.
7. To this end wastefulness at all levels must be brought to an end for there may again come a time – due to global warming, overpopulation and resultant material shortages – when rationing has to be re-introduced.
8. The new parliamentarians should engage with and positively support all nations seeking to co-operate for a sustainable, harmonious future for our planet.
9. In the clear understanding of all the destructive, deeply damaging effects of modern warfare on nature and ecological systems and on the human psyche through the loss of loved ones, physical mutilation and propaganda designed to produce hatred of fellow human beings, to do away with warfare and militarism.
10. The objective is to commit the military to National Service. Thus military personnel would be in the service of the people at home, not only in times of national disaster but also in helping to build, train and educate in areas of depression and deprivation throughout the U.K.
11. Personnel from the National Service would always be ready to serve in and bring assistance to disaster areas in the world where international co-operation is needed.
12. After 4 years M. P.'s are to be removed from the selection roll and another random, regional selection of experts should take place.
13. The whole Civil Service should take new examinations to ascertain their fitness for employment and be re-examined after 5 years.
14. The maximum span of employment for a Civil Servant should be 10 years.
15. The House of Parliament should make one of its first objectives to establish the fields of operation of the Civil Service and their pay structures.
16. Just as there is a Jury in the Courts of Law to pronounce on what has

- been presented before them, so there should be a House of Review/Senate composed of 300 members randomly selected from the adult population on an equal basis from each region.
17. The House of Review/Senate would be able to question, criticise and censure laws coming from the House of Parliament and return them for reconsideration.
 18. The House of Review/Senate should be renewed every three years based on random selection as above.
 19. After 3 years, all retiring members of the House of Review/Senate would be excluded from any further random selection.
 20. An end should be made to the long recesses of Parliament which no longer fit the range and scope of present day parliamentary business. The need to scrutinise the flood of business demands a more permanent presence of M. P.'s. Therefore it is suggested that the total time for recess be reduced to between 6 – 8 weeks.
 21. The salaries of all members of both Houses should be fixed at a maximum of £150,000 with no allowance for expenses.
 22. As public servants members of both Houses should have adequate staff and office space provided free of charge.
 23. Any question of malpractice, or dispute, or objection to parliamentary action coming from the public, is to be referred to a Supreme Tribunal of Constitutional Judges.
 24. An objection from the public must be supported by at least 30,000 signatures with recognised addresses.
 25. A proposal from the public must be considered by Parliament when it is supported by 250,000 signatures accompanied by recognised addresses.

In the hope that this submission may give some food for thought,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

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