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Maidstone

Sir Christopher Kelly, KCB  
Chairman  
Committee on Standards in Public Life  
35 Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BQ

April 30, 2009

Dear Sir Christopher

I submit for the consideration of your Committee the following comments for your review of MPs' pay and allowances.

Parliament has become like the BBC, which has constantly forced up the television tax to indulge itself. Parliament has become like local authorities, which have forced up council tax to pay officers obscene salaries. Parliament has become a sty for fattening miscreants.

Indeed, there are far too many members in the House of Commons. This chamber should have a maximum of 300. The other 350 odd should be culled. They should **not** be paid more than £63,000.

It is as plain as a pikestaff that many MPs are there for what they can get out of politics and not for what they can put in. I have in mind the member who claimed 88p for a bath plug. Politics, after all, is just showbiz for ugly people.

Concerning the Speaker of the House of Commons, I was taught that it was an honourable position and held by someone of especial character and propriety. The present holder should be chopped off at the knees – at the very least censured for his air miles, expense claims and overseas junkets. He is of the same genre as bankers.

I well remember the man who once held that post with honour. It was he who taught me in school and took my class on a first visit to Parliament – George Thomas, later Lord Tonypany.

If the present venal system of pay and rations for MPs continues, the spiral of political alienation will deepen.

Yours sincerely

S. John