



BAILLIEUGATE 8

Peter Adamis 13 July 2014

Liberal Party members concerned about the direction of the party have made representation to the author regarding recent incidents and the lack of focus on the coming State election. In all cases they have been advised that the Secretariat has taken the appropriate action and that the author has been advised that a witch-hunt is not being undertaken.

Keeping powder dry. Despite these reassurances Liberal party members appear to be concentrating on identifying the recalcitrant members responsible for the latest incident that of the Baillieu leaked tape and alleged stolen dictaphone. This author is of the opinion that it is time to move and concentrate these thoughts into positive action in winning the next State election. However others are merely "going along with the flow" so to speak and keeping their powder dry until after the results of the State Election are known. The stakes are high indeed and many profiles, positions and individuals careers and credibility are in the line.

The objective of this crack squad of right-wing commandos is to induce a loss for the Coalition to clear the way for promotions, fresh blood and a new conservative agenda after the November 29 election, sources say.

Political commandos and risks. I intend to agree with Farrah Tomazin, the Age State political journalist comments regarding domestic political commandos being involved.

These so called political commandos are undermining their own party's structure in order to reduce its voting capacity at the November elections. But the problem still arises as to the identification of the culprit and/or culprits involved. I have already discussed in previous BaillieuGate articles the various scenarios and who could benefit from such commando style action. Yes, it has already been established that the stakes are high, but so are the risks and therefore those responsible are committed to taking those risks calculated as they may seem.

These political risks reminds me of the Roman and Byzantine politics where everything was on the table and the risk of being caught meant death. Luckily we live in an enlightened century where a political death is considered loss of credibility, public humiliation and exposure almost mean the same thing in the political arena.

Challenges faced by Liberal party. This year so far Victorians Liberals have been subjected to a variety of incidents and upheavals that have rocked the party's conservative foundations. The changes in the parliamentary speaker and the humiliating insider battle between Ken Smith and that of Geoff Shaw, the alleged Liberals link to the Mafia, the ongoing drama of Geoff Shaw and his exile from State parliament, the possibility of losing government a result of not having the majority in the house, the political battle over Mary Woolridge and Tim Smith for Kew, internal unrest arising from leadership changes.

This was followed by the texting incident at the last State Council, the late preselection of candidates, a rising Liberal grass roots revolt, the emergence and/or resurrection of factions based on ideologies, a split in the ranks amongst parliamentary members are but a few of the challenges that have been faced thus far. However to the credit of Denis Napthine and that of Tony Snell, the Liberal party has remained united at least in the eyes of an uniformed Victorian public who are only interested in enhancing and maintaining their lifestyles.



State Council Texting Incident. Liberal party members in the know have indicated that they do not believe that the texting incident at the last State Council conducted in April earlier this year is not connected with the recent leaked BaillieuGate tape. However given the publicity surrounding the leaked tape and the comments made by Ted Baillieu have only added further political fuel to the fire and have not made it easy for Tony Snell, Denis Napthine or that or the State Director.

It is now believed that the State Council text scandal was an inside job, meant to de-stabilised delegates, at the last moment, to defeat the opposing candidates to the current regime - namely those mentioned in the text. This opinion is predicated on the timeline of that morning, given that most delegates had registered to State Council by the time. (Read below the article by the Age.



Media articles. Let alone social media outlets, media articles and information relating Victorian politics may be sourced and pierced together from a variety of sources found free on line. It does not take an Einstein to pick up the threads of information, but identifying their origins can only be tracked by some knowledge of the stakeholders involved. This is the tricky part for those responsible have been clever to hide their tracks.

In an attempt to analyse one such article, interestingly enough, written by Farrah Tomazin, the same journalist whose dictaphone was allegedly stolen. In this article it makes mention of 600 delegates who had been sent this text. Only an insider would know, at that critical moment of 9:16AM, how many delegates were present then to be sent that text. This information appeared the following day (Sunday morning) and one could assume written from a Labor perspective.

On reflection some Liberals feel that the journalist Tomazin must have had high-level insider knowledge and that high-level insider's opinion of what happened. However this is mere conjecture on the part of those who believe in such fanciful conspiracies and/or want a scapegoat to be paraded for all to be seen. Although the article was one of the first to be written on the subject of the texting incident much light is shed on the inner working and mindset of the Liberal Party hierarchy.

On reflection, my observations of the day were to observe one Senator strutting the grounds of the State Council texting and speaking on the mobile phone like a General marshalling troops into battle. Another observation was at the head table two members seen texting on their mobiles in full view of everyone. Although this struck me odd at the time and I have yet to make up my mind the connection between the texting incident and whether they were merely instructions on voting patterns.



MAIL CHIMP EMAIL SERVICE

Party sources said the email was sent from a Gmail account and used an American-based email proxy service called Mail Chimp to avoid junk mail and spam filters. "Everyone on our database has received the email, which is a concern," said one party insider.

I must confess that the texting caused a stir as I happened to have received two text messages on that day myself. Both of these were immediately text to the State Director for his perusal and further investigation.

What was of interest on the day was that a number of high profile Liberal Party members were seen going around saying to other members how disgraceful it was to receive the messages. At the time I was a loss for words until I received my second text message. I found this hypocritical when the second the text messages was found later to have originated from this same person faction.

Later post State Council, using the information as per the text, Liberal party members in an attempt to identify the culprit 'googled' the mobile number and undertook reverse search techniques. The mobile number appeared have originated from Korea and one other person had searched for it late Saturday morning. Since then I have regularly rung that number to see if an actual person picks up. With effect today there has been no luck in identifying the source. Still I am quite sure that in due course the truth will eventually be drawn out.

In addition to the above, I have been advised that advice was also sought by other like minded Liberal party members who had law enforcement experience. These members advised that the mobile number when rung went directly to a Message bank. Therefore it is their belief that it is not a mobile phone and have come to the conclusion that it's a phone that is a "burnt phone" used by criminals. It is therefore not possible to track it back to its owner. IAs a result it is felt that it is the handiwork of a high level Liberal who has a excellent knowledge of information technology and has misused that knowledge to wreck havoc on the Saturday morning of the Liberal party State Council.

Premier Denis Napthine has fuelled speculation Labor figures could be working in tandem with Tea Party-style Liberal agitators to destabilise the state government.

Work of recalcitrant Insider. Other Liberal party members are of the belief that it is another sign that it was an insider.

One consideration was given to the high staff turn-over of young members at the Secretariat, but there is no substantial evidence to prove this. The alternative to this is scenario is that the incident is indicative of internal strife, rather than confront the insider/insiders, they leave. Since the texting scandal, articles have been written regarding Liberal Party internal strife, despite the good work of Tony Snell and that of Denis Napthine in quelling unrest within the Liberal party.

Grass roots unrest.

However despite all their good work of engaging members it would appear that there is a growing unrest amongst the grass root members and the resurrection of factional groups based on ideologies rather than personalities as in the past. For example the left wing of the Liberal Party is at odd with the conservative wings, each vying for the hearts and minds of Liberals who are not involved in either of the two ideological battles. One now wonders whether the State Election will be the great decider and will it put a stop to all the shenanigans within the Liberal party.



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INTERNAL PRIVACY BREACH ROCKS LIBS

Farrah Tomazin, State Politics 13 April 2014 SAG The Sunday Age

The Victorian Liberals have launched an investigation into an unprecedented **privacy breach**, whereby forces within its own ranks tried to manipulate a ballot determining control of the party's organisational wing. Seven months before the state election, factional hostilities erupted on the floor of the Liberal State Council on Saturday when a text message was anonymously sent to hundreds of delegates outlining how they should vote.

Party chiefs branded the move a "disgraceful" attempt to sway the outcome, particularly for the coveted position of female vice-president, which was a tightly fought contest between Sandra Mercer Moore, the electorate chairwoman for federal minister Kevin Andrews, and Caroline Elliott, daughter of the former Carlton president John Elliott.

"It is disgraceful. This is a clear breach, and it's completely unacceptable," State Director Damien Mantach told the party faithful, as members in the audience cried out "shame" in response to the text. "It is a gross breach of privacy and we will be investigating it to see if we can find out who has sent it so they can be disciplined."

The SMS - which sources assume was the work of someone from the party's right - not only broke Liberal rules, but whoever sent it managed to obtain the phone numbers of almost all of the more than 600 delegates at yesterday's gathering. The message urged them to put Ms Mercer Moore, a conservative, at the top of the ticket. However, Ms Elliott, a moderate, ultimately won the vice-presidency with 496 votes to 173.

The ructions threatened to derail Denis Napthine's election pitch, which is partly designed to attack Labor as the party of factional brawling and power plays. They also came after the acrimonious battle for the state seat of Kew, which undermined Dr Napthine's authority and forced one of his senior ministers, Mary Wooldridge, to move to the upper house after losing her preselection bid in that electorate.

Liberal state president Tony Snell yesterday warned rank-and-file members that if the government was to win November's election, the party would have to work together and not be "distracted by internal politics". Saturday's event kicked off what is set to be a hard-fought election, with the government languishing behind Labor in the polls as problems such as overcrowded trains, ambulance response times, and job losses continue to bite.

In a bid to regain the political high ground, the Liberals launched a new advertising blitz spruiking Dr Napthine under the campaign slogan "Building a Better Victoria". Dr Napthine will attend the conference on Sunday, giving a speech that is expected to highlight the Coalition's credentials while attacking Labor leader Daniel Andrews over his links with the militant union the CFMEU.

Appearing as a guest speaker on Saturday, federal senator Eric Abetz laid the groundwork, saying Mr Andrews' refusal to cut ties with the union made him unelectable as premier. "You can judge a man by the company he keeps," he said.

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