



BALLIEUGATE 11

Peter Adamis 29 July 2014

These past few weeks Victorians have been fed little fibs, big fibs and a lot of misinformation surrounding the BaillieuGate leaked tape. its contents, location and its subsequent disposal by embarrassed Labor officials.

Labors' lost opportunities.

The recent main headlines regarding the BaillieuGate headlines have not placed Labor in a good light and one only has to glimpse the main topic headlines to understand that labor has dug its own grave and possibly its own political demise. Headlines such as: Daniel Andrews' dirty mess, Tomazin Torrid affair could have been avoided, Denials pressure Andrews, Andrews adamant dictaphone was not stolen and now we have Daniel Andrews saying: " they destroyed the recorder", "a bad call", "dirty mess" all of which indirectly infer that he is unable to keep his own house in order. If this is the case how can Victorians support or vote for him and his party.

Not a good start for any one political party but then again one has to role with the punches if one wants to be in Parliament. take the good with the bad and one has to admire Daniel Andrews for taking it on the chin like a man and not letting it faze him or seeking any disciplinary action against his own political supporters. Who knows what the right of Labor will do when they caucus meets again to decide the future. Like the Liberals, Labor will also be looking for another leader of one or the other loss the election.

When that time comes, one can be sure that those who have the best ring side seats will not be disappointed. I am quite sure that political blood will be shed by old gladiators still trying to survive in the political arena against the young and far sighted new generation of hopefuls. Those in between the Baby boomer generation and the current generation coming up through the ranks will miss out. they have been waiting in the wings for so long that they are shedding their wings and casting off their reptile skins in preparation for what is to come.

Not until the crows come home. This author is of the believe that the BaillieuGate affair is far from over and that further revelations will come to air over the next few weeks. revelations that will decide who will govern Victoria. My bet is on the Liberals retuning power but at a cost to their management and hierarchal power structure. New alliances are being made as we speak, the various factions storing up their arsenal of weapons whatever they may be and ensuring that their powder remains dry enough to explode explosive after effects that will bring undone those who have been plotting behind the scenes to bring down the Prime Minister and that of the Victorian Premier.

They are indeed and surely playing for high stakes which makes them a target for others to monitor their political aspirations This is a pity because many of them are well known and

have much to offer Victorians and Australians in the wider political landscape. Whoever these so called senior Liberals are that are saying that Tony abbot's presence in Victoria is seen as a negative can only mean that either they are concerned about Tony Abbotts conservative leanings and that it would impinge on the local political fiefdom, or that they are using Tony Abbotts; public image in order to undermine him within the Victorian electorate. I for one put my money on the latter.

Coalition of the willing gala dinner. At a recent Liberal party dinner in the Eastern suburbs Scott Morrison, Kevin Andrews, Allan Tudge and Michael Sukkar address the party right wing faithful. Approximately 500 members who attended the gala dinner were not disappointed as they had the opportunity to meet and greet, create new alliances, catch up with the latest, rub shoulders with the "pollies", while other just monitored gathered intelligence and monitored the political "miscreants" and "leakers" of which only a few found the courage to be present.

Michael Sukkar was an enthusiastic and though roughly enjoyable as the Master of Ceremonies by keeping everyone on their toes throughout the evening He was followed by Scott Morrison who had just arrived from his trip to India and spoke brilliantly about his trip and that of the illegal boats. Kevin Andrews as usual was at his best and gave a riveting speech on the government and also Allan Tudge who gave his view on the current political climate in Canberra.

Helen Kroger former Victorian Senator who was amongst the guests was made welcome by well wishers, friends and colleagues and wished her all the best post senate. It is believed that supporters have arranged for a series tribute dinners to Helen on her contributions to the Australian Senate. Sandra Mercer Moore the former Liberal party Vice President was at the head table flanked by Neil Brown the former member for Menzies, Richard Dalla Riva, Julian McGauran former Victorian, Mr. and Mrs, Samuels and Anthony Fernandez. Sandra Mercer Moore since the Liberal State Council elections has been instrumental in coordinating many of the activities within the Menzies electorate and supporting quietly resting

Peter Vlahos former Mayor of Monash, Tim Smith Liberal candidate for Kew, Andrew Davenport, Vasan Sirinivasan the Indian community representative, Nick Demiris, Russell Hannan, Nick McGowan and other too numerous to mention were to be seen. It was pleasing to see Senator Scot Ryan and Liberal Party President Tony Snell along with other like minded individuals be present. Overall it was a successful gala dinner where thousands of dollars were raised as campaign funds for the future.

Healing and growing. One hopes that the evening contributed towards a healing of factional differences and created an environment political compatibility that can be built upon. This is important if unity is to be the platform upon which Tony Snell and his team have been espousing since the State Council. They say it takes two to tango, but it will take a number of chorus girls to be able to dance in harmony and appeal to the customers at the same time. Life is but full of surprises as today's opponents soon find that they have a common adversary and alliances unheard of before are possible in order to survive in the political arena.

All for one and one for all. Would it be idealistic of me to think that would be the case. One rule of law for all. I say this in light of what the Prime Minister Tony Abbott has said in regards to the Peter Slipper affair that no one is above the law. I find this very encouraging and would like to believe that Tony abbot is bringing back rational Australian values of respect, fairgo for the battler and changing the behavioural attitudes of a nation that is in danger of falling on its sword without even trying. This country needs to be awakened from its free handouts and reliance on welfare in order to create an environment where Australian values mean something again.

Changing attitudes and behaviours. The work for the Dole is but one aspect of what Australians can expect, and I for one would support such a concept with some adjustments that are more compatible with Australian values. Mind you the program is not to being until another twelve months and much works needs to be done. His recent handling of the MH17 airplane disaster was statesman like and all Australians approved his actions. I will make a prophecy that Tony abbot will become a fine Prime Minister who will surpass rather than emulate his mentor John Howard. His firm, fair and compassionate attitude towards Australians is not always reported pun by the media which unfortunately points to a negative approach by the media hungry for news.



The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis is a Journalist/Commentator and writer. He is a retired Australian military serviceman and an Industry organisational & Occupational (OHS) & Training Consultant whose interests are within the parameters of domestic and international political spectrum. He is an avid blogger and contributes to domestic and international community news media outlets as well as to local and Ethnic News. He holds a Bachelor of Adult Learning & Development (Monash), Grad Dip Occupational Health & Safety, (Monash), Dip. Training & Assessment, Dip Public Administration, and Dip Frontline Management. Contact via Email: abalinx@netspace.net.au or via Mobile: 0409965538



OH, AND THEN THEY DESTROYED THE RECORDER

July 29, 2014

The Age Voters are entitled to question if Mr Andrews' conduct is worthy of a future state leader *Photo: Eddie Jim*. Daniel Andrews admits 'wrong call' was made. Memory card from a dictaphone belonging to an Age journalist "was destroyed.

The hard drive, was cut up with scissors and put in the bin", Victoria's opposition leader tells 3AW host Neil Mitchell, as he admits Labor officials made the wrong call by not returning it. Returning a dictaphone would have avoided unseemly affair. Andrews denies involvement in Age tapes saga. Labor leader Daniel Andrews and some of his party officials must believe Victorians are dupes, because the explanation they have offered about what happened to a journalist's tape recorder after it came into the custody of Labor operatives is manifestly implausible and patently disingenuous.

Perhaps Mr Andrews is not being told the whole truth by those closest to him - in which case heads should roll - or perhaps he is deliberately keeping himself from discovering it. Mr Samaras should be sacked immediately. Instead, he is being cosseted as part of a Labor cover-up. The unseemly episode, which even Mr Andrews describes as a "dirty mess", raises serious questions about the integrity of Labor's most senior officials in this state. Separately, voters are entitled to question if the kind of dissembling and blame deflection exhibited yesterday by Mr Andrews is conduct worthy of a future state leader, a position that demands unimpeachable integrity.

On Friday, Mr Andrews heatedly denied that Labor was involved in the theft of the recorder and its contents, which included a private conversation between *The Sunday Age's* political editor, Farrah Tomazin, and former Liberal premier Ted Baillieu. A copy of that conversation was distributed in late June to hundreds of Liberal MPs and party members via an email from a bogus address. The intention, presumably, was to incite factional spats among Liberals.

Yesterday, Labor's deputy state secretary, Kosmos Samaras, admitted he took the recorder from a box of lost property that had been retained after the ALP state conference in May. Mr Samaras, for whatever reason, took it upon himself to listen to the contents of the recorder. He downloaded the contents and copied the Baillieu call to a USB stick, which he gave to Mr Andrews' press secretary, Chris Reilly. Mr Samaras also played the tape to ALP state secretary Noah Carroll and Mr Andrews' chief of staff, John McLindon, and together they discussed what to do, and whether they could release it.

According to Mr Carroll and Mr Samaras, it was decided that the contents should not be distributed further, based upon legal advice they had received. Mr Samaras says he destroyed the recorder, and Mr Andrews says this was done by cutting up the memory card so that "every item from the recorder was deleted and destroyed - every copy was destroyed".

Labor officials had no right to destroy the recorder and its contents, just as they had no right to copy it. Mr Andrews asks us to believe that Mr Samaras merely made "a bad call", that he listened to the whole recorder in a fit of pique after discovering he was included on it. What nonsense. If he rewound the tape to check the most recent 15 minutes or so, he would have found Mr Andrews himself addressing the state conference. Mr Samaras should be sacked immediately. Instead, he is being cosseted as part of a Labor cover-up.

Labor's response has been fundamentally dishonest. Why didn't Mr Samaras return the recorder when he saw the Fairfax Media sticker on the back? Why didn't Mr Carroll or Mr McLindon direct their colleague to return it? Why did they even discuss distributing it? How many other memory sticks were there with copies? Who passed a copy of the Baillieu conversation to Liberal operatives? When exactly was the recorder destroyed? We could go on.

Instead of apologising profusely, Mr Andrews and Mr Samaras have sought to cast doubt on the integrity of the journalist who lost the recorder. Here is a lesson in the law, Mr Andrews: it is not illegal in this state to record people without their consent if you are a party to the call. Mr Andrews' management of this issue has been bewilderingly bad. Worse, we detect a degree of shameless obfuscation.

<http://www.theage.com.au/comment/the-age-editorial/oh-and-then-they-destroyed-the-recorder-20140728-3cpsv.html>

MPS LIKE SLIPPER NOT ABOVE THE LAW: ABBOTT

AAP 29 JUL 2014

The case against former Speaker Peter Slipper shows no member of parliament is above the law, says Tony Abbott. Prime Minister Tony Abbott says the Peter Slipper case shows no one is above the law. The former federal parliamentary Speaker and Queensland MP was found guilty on Monday of three counts of dishonesty and could face up to a year in prison or \$10,000 in fines when he's sentenced on September 22.

Slipper admitted using his government travel entitlements to visit wineries outside Canberra on three separate occasions in 2010 but always denied he acted dishonestly. His legal team is considering an appeal against the conviction. Mr Abbott says the decision speaks for itself.

"In the end it's got to be one law for everyone, from the highest in the land to the lowest in the land," Mr Abbott told Macquarie Radio on Tuesday. Opposition Leader Bill Shorten says it is disappointing and saddening to see an MP conduct himself in the way Slipper had. "I completely deplore the set of circumstances and we completely deplore what has happened here."

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2014/07/29/mps-slipper-not-above-law-abbott>