Thought BYTE

CONNECT M3

Is Our Political System, History?

TB-6456A

and another question – how might the people take more control of our future?

1 There's a terrific and revealing line from a 1970 film, which has stayed with me forever. It's a line from the film 'Cromwell', spoken by actor Robert Morley, playing a parliamentarian in England's government in the 1650s.

Oliver Cromwell - an English statesman and soldier – became famous for leading a Parliamentarian revolt against the English crown - Charles I and his followers - in what became known as the English Civil Wars of 1642 to 1651. A perfect piece of film scriptwriting – nailing the truth of the day – also nailed the truth about many politicians of the current day – nearly 400yrs later!



2 So, what was it that **Robert Morley** – as the **Earl of Manchester** in the film **CROMWELL** [2a] said – speaking in parliament to his fellow parliamentarians?

"Much has been said in this house about the so-called inequity of certain members being financially involved in national projects. Members have ascribed to this state of affairs, dark and sinister motives. I say, if we in parliament cannot gain from ruling the country, there is really very little point in our being here at all."

Do sit with these lines for a moment – absorb them – they say so much.

What followed this scene in parliament was a speech equally revealing and delivered with thundering gravity. It came from **Cromwell**, played by **Richard Harris**. Interjecting in the debate, Cromwell follows the Earl with a grim summary of parliament and its members. Cromwell speaks of parliament's failures due to the worthlessness of those who make it up – being failed representatives of the people of the nation.

At one level or another, this situation, described in the film and spoken of by dear Robert Morley and Richard Harris, gives us a very distinct image. It's an image of our political system which has changed little in all the years since Cromwell's time. That being so, is it possible now, that someone - in these green and pleasant lands of ours – could envisage a different path forward? Someone other than the PM or other politician? See **CONNECT M3** [2b]

It is difficult to imagine that such a person does not exist – and that they don't already walk among us. There are just 650 *Servant* MPs in parliament today but more than 65million citizens in this island nation of ours. That equates to a massive 100,000 citizens for every one of the SMPs who sit in that place. Given that those 650 are limited in so many different ways – and misguided in others – is it not time that citizens went looking for new inspiration from among themselves, for a completely new and effective political system?

That being a new political system, born from a now-awakening more intelligent society, to do all things far more intelligently. A new political system to replace a wholly nonsensical system, based on LEFT, RIGHT and so-called CENTRISTS, who individually display their badges of allegiance in the form of different coloured rosettes bearing their names. Elections - when they come once in a blue moon – only ever sometimes change the colour. Elections never change the very System those elections are based upon. And it's the System which needs ousting - and at the next election will do.

So, calling on higher authority – I say, surely, in the name of God – are we not all crying out now for that new political system? A system centred on serving the citizens directly, independent of any controlling political party. Independent servants acting with honesty and integrity, transparency and accountability at their core. Why burden the People any longer with the limiting self-centred political types, as Robert Morley described his very self.

I firmly believe there is such a citizen walking among us – and plenty of others with the echo of that one in all of us. So now I ask this question of you. Is it YOU? And if it is you, my God alive Sir – I can say you will not walk alone!

3 Turning now to something monumental that has happened in the world of politics – and it happened recently in Europe – at a political election no less.

A political group called **Student List** won the Serbian state election to topple the **14yr** old ruling party, led by **Aleksandar Vicic.**
See **NACIONALE** [3a] and **HUNGARIAN CONSERVATIVE** [3b]

There are three stand-out facts about this election.

1. The party was less than 2yrs old
2. The party had no leader for the election
3. The party stood for things the citizens were keen to have addressed

A bit of background and history.
The party was born from a student-led movement which later became an electoral list. It followed a year of university blockades and street protests.

These were triggered by the blaming of government for its corruption and negligence involving the collapse of a railway station canopy which killed 16 people. In itself, one would think such a tragic event would not start such a movement. But this event – as viewed by so many Serbians - was the straw which broke the camel's back. It was the last straw and the citizens acted.

The party was forged from plenums held in each student education centre – being open assemblies where every student could speak and vote. This already sounds like a better way forward. Imagine citizens in every village, town and city in the UK doing something similar. It would look like a quiet and peaceful revolt – truly unstoppable due to the numbers. And the Serbians had those numbers. No leader was chosen or panel of masters selected. Clever - and a master stroke as it became! It meant the opposition and ruling parties had no one person to attack or criticise in the media.

And the party's four original demands:

- publish all documents on the station's reconstruction;
- identify and prosecute those who attacked students;
- drop charges against arrested protesters;
- raise funding for higher education by 20%.

It got better.
In **Mar25**, a massive rally took place in Belgrade where the turnout was judged to have been **325,000**– according to the Archive of Public Gatherings. **Sky News** [3c] reported on it. As did **DW News** [3d] [3e] which also reported the gathering was targeted by forces using an alleged sonic cannon – an acoustic device – deployed in an attempt to disperse the crowds. **MSN** [3f] reported that such a device – an sonic weapon – had been tested on dogs. The Serbian government denied using the weapon on protestors. **CBC** [3g].

In **May25** the students called for a snap election. In **Jun25** they published a programme and rules for candidates: no students, and nobody who had ever been in the ruling coalition or an official of the parliamentary opposition. The election candidates were made up of all kinds of people – doctors, scientists, farmers and anyone without a track record in parliament or government.
PM Vučić called the election on **9sep26**.
And the rest you know – they won the election.

One question though remains hanging. Will this party slowly become just like all others in politics? That is, being controlled by a select few and corrupted by powerful hidden forces? Or will it remain true to the People and only serve the People? To do that, perhaps the party needs to disband and allow each elected member to be truly independent and truly representative of the People who are 'Willing' for that positive change?

4 So, back to the lead question. Is Our Political System, History?
No, it certainly isn't yet – but it really should be - needs to be – and can be!
We just need citizens with enough of the real stuff to stand up - step forward – and 'Will' it to happen. And then it Will. It Will happen for all of us!
The students of Serbia proved so clearly - that it only takes the People's Will.

So, that's my current thinking and opinion on this subject today –
but I wonder - what are your thoughts?

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2b **CONNECT M3:** ANDY BURNHAM HAS A VISION : TB-6275D

3a **NACIONALE:** WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? : BP-6451D

3b **HUNGARIAN CONSERVATIVE:** 14YRS OF IT - BUT NOW ENDED! : AN-6441C

3c **SKY NEWS:** IT'S ABOUT CORRUPTION : AN-5121B

3d **DW NEWS:** THE SERBIANS HAVE HAD IT : AN-5151J

3e **DW NEWS:** SERBIANS WANT CHANGE : BP-5121B

3f **MSN:** WEAPONS USED FIRST ON DOGS : AN-6054F

3g **CBC:** SERBIAN GOV'T LIES AGAIN? : BP-5121D

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