

Not Much Is Going To Change At The Top

*I read
an article
the other day,
in the 'Weekend Australian
Financial Review'
called,
"Not Much
Is Going To Change
At The Top."
It was
a little depressing
and a wee bit cynical,
about the hopeful
anticipation
of a new political era
under Gillard.
And sadly,
I found myself thinking,
'He's probably right!'
What guarantee
have we got,
that under
Gillard*

*things will
actually change?

I hope,
I really hope
that Brian Toohey
got it wrong!

I hope,
I really hope
that our new Prime Minister
will be bold and courageous,
changing the way
the Rudd Government run,
changing the way
things have been done
and actually,
really,
truly,
making a difference!

I hope,
I really hope
Gillard*

*will consult with cabinet
rather than making decisions
alone
or in a little gang;
for surely,
when it comes
to running the country,
twelve heads
are much better
than one,
or four?

I hope,
I really hope
Gillard
has learnt from Rudd
and won't make the same
stupid mistakes;
she says she has learnt
so I guess,
I'll just have to watch and wait.

I hope,
I really hope*

*she'll be
the Prime Minister
Australia
desperately needs,
but I'm just gonna
have to wait and see!*

*Will she be strong enough,
passionate enough,
compassionate enough
to do what needs to be done,
to lead Australia forward,
to lead Australia
strong and sure
into a future bright?*

*Will she be the leader
and visionary,
Australia really needs?
Will she lead Labor
in pursuing
social justice,
while still making
significant,
impacting
environmental change?*

*What about
working with businesses
big and small
as well as
ordinary people
and still helping those in need?*

*What about
Asylum Seekers?*

*What about
Climate Change?*

*Will Labor,
under Gillard,
encourage ideas,
invention*

and innovation?

*Will they encourage
Australian Entrepreneurs,
whose ideas provide jobs
and money for us all?*

*What about our
population growth
and immigration?*

*What about
the infrastructure
and jobs*

needed to support us all?

*What about
economics,
tax breaks and tax cuts,
pensions, allowances,
Medicare
and mental health?*

*What about
our river systems,
our forests,
our coral reefs
and our farmers
in need of help and relief
and a new
viable*

*sustainable way
of farming this land?*

*What about
sustainability,
environmental
and social
responsibility?*

*What about
responsible food labelling,
Genetically Modified food*

*and our health,
especially our children's health,
both physical health
and mental health?*

*Don't forget,
Julia,
these kids
they are our future!*

*Can Gillard be
compassionate
and merciful,
while being
tough and strong?
Can she remain true to herself
and not lose herself
in the political game?*

*Unless,
of course,
she already has!
Not hard, I believe,
for it seems
that many politicians have -
they've lost their dreams,
their ideals have been*

*compromised
somewhere
on the way.
Can she stay real?
Is she real?
Can she connect
with the everyday people
of the country
she serves,
as well as the rest of the world?*

*Can she make promises,
that Labor will keep?
Can she make promises
they will not break?
Can Prime Minister Gillard
be a good politician,
a great leader?
Can she be the one
who I'll trust my future with?
Can I trust her to look after this country?
Can I trust her with the lives of my kids?
Can I trust her with my future?
Can I trust her with my life?*

*So I say,
in the short weeks to follow,
be a good politician,
a great leader,
one who cares
for Australia,
this beautiful land,
where we have the privilege
and luxury to live.*

*Be a good politician,
a great leader,
a forward thinking visionary
who cares for
the environment
and for business too,
who makes the tough decisions
and does what needs doing
right now,
not putting them off
again and again
until it's far too late!*

*Be a good politician,
a great leader,
a forward thinking visionary,*

*a difference maker
someone who cares
for the ordinary people
who inhabit Australia's shores -
the families,
the singles,
the couples;
the elderly
and the young as well;
those who
were lucky enough
to be born here
and those who came over in boats;
the indigenous,
the immigrant
and the descendants
of those convicts and settlers
from 200 plus years ago!*

*I implore
Prime Minister Gillard,
look with new eyes*

*Carla G.
August 2010*

*around you,
use the talent
you were born with
and work with those
who surround you.
Be true to yourself
and have mercy,
be filled with compassion,
be real,
and never forget
who you are,
where you've come from,
where you've been
and where you're going.
Stay true to yourself,
remember
your ideals and dreams;
remember
what it truly means to be
Prime Minister of Australia
and the responsibility you have
to this country,*

*its people and the rest of the world:
"With great power
comes great responsibility,"
(to coin a phrase from Spiderman)
but this is what it means
to be P.M.
And then,
maybe then,
you'll be
the Prime Minister
Australia needs;
the Prime Minister
who can lead us
in our time of need;
the Prime Minister
who can lead Australia
and its people
to be the best
that we can be.*

This poem was inspired by the article "Not Much is Going to Change at the Top" by Brian Toohey on p.63 of The Weekend Australian Financial Review, June 25-27. From what I've seen so far, I have to say, I think he's right.