放棄對抗立場 珍惜深圳之行

中英社評

責任編輯:唐偉雄

特首梁振英昨日出席立法會答問大會,在發言中,特首苦口婆心再一次勸喻反對派議員要珍惜此次與中央官員面對面的交流機會,全體參加這個星期日在深圳舉行的會面安排。

眼前,無論是特首梁振英還是廣大市民,都對反對派議員的深圳之行提出了殷切的要求和期望:深圳之行是一個契機,更重要的是深圳之行過後能有效改變反對派議員6月17日在表決機器上的那一按。

特首和市民的良好願望是否會實現還是落空?目前看來情況未許樂觀。就在昨天的答問大會上,反對派議員陳志全就繼續死抱「公司票」改「個人票」和「白票守尾門」不放,認為基本法委員會主任張榮順日前已公開否決了這些可能性,那深圳之行還去來幹什麼?「還有什麼討論的空間」?

的確,如果反對派議員都如陳志全 那樣,到今時今日、距2017特首普選方 案提交立會表決僅有不足20天時間的關 鍵時刻,還來糾纏什麼「白票」、「個 人票」,還想改變提委會的組成和投票 辦法,還想推翻全國人大的8.31決定, 那麼,深圳之行確實是沒有什麼可以談 的了。但這個「沒得傾」的責任,一不 在中央、二不在特區政府,中央直到這 最後一刻還派出三員大將南下到深圳溝 通對話,還有什麼對不起反對派的?特 區政府爲促成此次會面費了不少工夫, 誠意也是不容置疑的; 剩下來要質疑或 反思的就只有反對派議員自己,你們到 底是抱持一種什麼樣的心態和目的踏上 這趟深圳之行?是認真聆聽、重新思 考、改弦易轍,還是反其道而行,繼續



▲特首梁振英苦口婆心再一次勸喻反對派議員要珍惜與中央官員面對面的交流 機會 資料圖片

一「捆」到底、最終「蛋打雞飛」?

事實是,眼前的反對派,已陷入了 回歸以來最深重的危機之中,他們正在 面對的,不是會上扔香蕉、不是惡罵官 員特首、不是扯皮「拉布」,而是要毀 掉一個香港歷史上從未有過的、五百萬 人的共同美夢:普選特首。這一事態, 也未免叫當反對派的太沉重了!

眼前,反對派雖仍聲勢洶洶、「企硬」不通過,但實際處境已和泄了氣的皮球差不多:中央堅持依法普選,8·31決定「雷打不動」,主流民意六成以上撐方案,餘下反對派還能夠做些什麼?能在中央憲制和基本法以外另找法律依據嗎?能繞過8·31另作一個決定嗎?六成以上民意可以視而不見嗎?赴深前夕的反對派,心情的確是「水深火熱」和「如履深淵」的了。

正是「再回頭已是百年身」,反對派眼前要面對的並不是深圳之行和下個

月的投票表決,而是一旦按下那個紅色 否決掣之後的嚴峻後果:一旦普選沒 了,他們還憑什麼再以「民意代表」自 居?還憑什麼再嚷嚷爲港人爭民主?普 選被否決之後,港人的民主前景又在哪 裡?屆時梁家傑、「長毛」之流如果還 有機會坐進立法會,別人不說,他們自 己也應該感到抬不起頭來。

就周日深圳之行,特首梁振英昨日 已不諱言,特區政府有需要爲普選方案 一旦遭否決之後作好準備,特區爲此已 付出了太多的精力和時間,香港已再輸 不起、耗不起,社會已付不起繼續無休 止政治爭拗的代價。

27位反對派議員,眼前和日後面對 的可以是最困難、最被動的時刻,也可 以是一種完全相反的局面,成敗得失、 是榮是辱,就全看此次深圳之行和日後 的那「歷史一按」了。

2015-05-29

Giving up antagonism and cherishing the Shenzhen trip

During a question—and—answer session in Legislative Council (Legco) yesterday, Chief Executive Leung Chun—ying once and again earnestly and patiently urged the opposition lawmakers to cherish the opportunity of face—to—face exchange of views with Central Government officials this time and all go to Shenzhen to participate in the meeting on Sunday.

At present, CE Leung Chun-ying and vast majority of citizens both have high aspiration for the opposition lawmakers' trip to Shenzhen. The trip provides an opportunity, but more importantly they hope it could effectively change the opposition lawmakers' decision on which voting button they should press on 17 June.

Will the good-intentioned wish of the CE and citizens be fulfilled or denied? It seems not optimistic given the current circumstances. At yesterday's Q&A session, opposition lawmaker Raymond Chan Chi-chuen still stubbornly **insisted on** replacing "corporate votes" by "individual votes" and introducing the "blank ballot mechanism" [in the 2017 CE election]. And he asked, what was the purpose of traveling to Shenzhen, since Zhang Rongshun, Vice Chairman of the Basic Law Committee under the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), had earlier already publically ruled out such possibilities? And what room was left for discussion?

Indeed, at such a crucial moment with less than 20 days left before the proposed method for the 2017 CE election by universal suffrage is handed over to the Legco for deliberation, if all opposition lawmakers are like Raymond Chan, obstinately clinging on to "blank votes" and "individual votes", and even want to change the composition of the Nominating Committee and voting method and to overthrow the August 31 Decision by the NPC Standing Committee, then there is really nothing to be discussed about at the Shenzhen meeting. But neither the Central Government nor the SAR Government is to be blamed for such an "end of discussion". The Central Government still send three senior officials down to Shenzhen to exchange views even at the last moment, so it does not let down the opposition. The SAR Government has also spent much effort to fix up this meeting, whose sincerity is beyond the shadow of a doubt. What is left to be questioned or reflected upon is but the opposition lawmakers themselves. What mentality or aim do you hold for making this trip to Shenzhen? Are you going to listen sincerely, rethink things over again and make a new start, or do the very opposite and go on "banding together" to ultimately become a dead loss?

As a matter of fact, the opposition right now has fallen into the most severe crisis since Hong Kong's handover. What they are doing is not throwing bananas at a Legco meeting, not hurling abuses at officials and the CE, not bickering or filibustering, but is to destroy a common dream of five million people never seen before in Hong Kong's history: the election of CE by universal suffrage. Such a burden is really too heavy for whoever wants to be called the opposition!

Right now, although the opposition still blusters and swaggers boldly to "stand firm" on vetoing the political reform proposal, in reality it already becomes like a deflated rubber ball. The Central Government insists on following the law to pursue universal suffrage, the NPC Standing Committee's August 31 Decision is not to be altered under any circumstances, and the supportive rate for the proposal in the mainstream public opinion is over 60%. So what room left for the opposition to manoeuvre? Can they look for other legal grounds outside the national constitution and Basic Law? Can the August 31 Decision be passed by to make another decision? Can the over 60% supportive rate in public opinion be overlooked? Ahead of their trip to Shenzhen, the opposition lawmakers must be feeling miserable as if standing on the brink of an abyss.

As an old saying has it that "[One single slip brings eternal regret, and] when looking back your whole life has already passed away." What the opposition must face now is neither the

Shenzhen trip nor the voting next month, but the serious consequences after pressing down the red "Against" button. Once they veto universal suffrage, on what ground could they still boast about being "people's representatives"? On what ground could they still claim they strive for democracy for Hong Kong people? Once universal suffrage is vetoed, what is the future for Hong Kong's democratic development? By then, even if Alan Leong Kah–ki, "Long Hair" and their ilk could still have a chance to sit in the Legco, they themselves should feel unable to **hold their head** up high even if others do not laugh at them.

About the Sunday trip to Shenzhen, CE Leung Chun-ying yesterday put it bluntly that the SAR Government needed to make preparations to deal with the aftermath once the political reform package was vetoed. The SAR had put in too much energy and time into it, and Hong Kong could no longer bear to lose more or afford endless antagonism as our society could no longer afford paying the price for endless political antagonism.

What the 27 opposition lawmakers are facing now and will face in future may be a most difficult and passive situation or a totally opposite one. Success or failure, gain or loss, honour or shame, all depends on their upcoming Shenzhen trip and their "historical pressing" on the voting button later.

29-05-2015

WORDS AND USAGE

Insist on doing sth (phrasal verb) –

To keep doing something, even if it annoys other people, or people think it is not good for you.

(堅持要做…,一定要做…)

Examples: 1. If you want to insist on doing something, should

do it every day.

2. I don't know why you insist on talking about it.

Cling (on) to sth (phrasal verb) - To hold on tight to something; to try very hard to keep something. (執著於…,堅持要…)

Examples: 1. He clung on to power for another 10 years.
2. Her immigrant parents clung to the old ways.

Let sb down (phrasal verb) – To disappoint someone by failing to do what you agreed to do or were expected to do.

Examples: 1. You will be there tomorrow – you won't let me down, will you?

2. When I was sent to prison, I really felt I had let my parents down.

(辜負、對不住某人)

Fix sth up (phrasal verb) — To arrange for something to happen. (安排,準備)

Examples: 1. Perhaps we can fix up a meeting for next week.
2. I went to the bank yesterday to fix up a loan.

Hold one's head (up) high (idiom) - To be confident of the

respect of other people; to be very confident and proud. (高昂起頭,自信自豪)

Examples: 1. If you know that you have done your best, you can hold your head high.

2. I am so embarrassed. I will never be able to hold my head up high again.

7

安然啓進

客觀主義(下)

根據20世紀小說家、哲學家安蘭德(Ayn Rand)的客觀 主義哲學(Objectivism),人的基本生存方式是按照自己的理 智行動。因此,在政治哲學中,人的基本權利就是免受武力逼 迫(包括詐騙、違約等「間接武力」)。

在安蘭德1959年的一次訪問中,著名記者華萊士(Mike Wallace)興致勃勃地說,美國在20世紀的最大成就,是建立了一套福利主義的社會制度。但安蘭德反指福利主義正令美國走向災難,她稱之爲「所有人奴役所有人」的制度。

華萊士大奇:「但這些政策是大家投票選出來的啊!難道你反對民主制度嗎?|

安蘭德不慌不忙地答:「我反對的是所有事情都由投票決定。在美國的立國理念中,『少數服從多數』只適用於公共事務,不得侵犯個人權利。所以我不認爲多數人投票可以『投』走一個人的生命、財產或自由。」

個人權利高於民主

華萊士追問:「那麼誰來選出我們的官員呢?」

安蘭德答道:「人民選出官員,這沒有問題。但政府的權力必須嚴格限制,不得用武力逼迫任何公民,除了罪犯:那些先行使用武力的人將受武力懲罰,而這正是政府的唯一功用。我們不能容許的是政府逼迫那些沒有使用武力、沒有傷害別人的無辜公民。多數人或少數人都無權奪去一個人的生命、財產或自由。我支持的是絕對、徹底、純粹的自由經濟制度。」

我第一次聽到這段話時,頓覺天搖地動。現實中或許從未 有過安蘭德的烏托邦,但她對那些挾集體之名侵犯個人自由的 「民主派」,無疑是當頭棒喝。

安蘭德生於羅刹帝國,經歷過蘇聯統治,21歲隻身來到美國。她以女性之身,用自己的第四語言——英文——寫出石破天驚的《源泉》(The Fountainhead)、《巨人聳肩》(Atlas Shrugged)等小說鉅著,掀起「客觀主義運動」的思潮。自由意志主義大師羅斯伯特(Murray Rothbard)、前聯儲局主席格林斯潘(Alan Greenspan)等人都曾是安蘭德的門生。

不少年輕一代的政治家,包括2012年共和黨副總統候選人保羅·萊恩(Paul Ryan)和2016年共和黨總統參選人蘭德·保羅(Rand Paul),都是讀安蘭德著作長大的,今天齊爲經濟自由鼓與呼。如果有朝一日,人民得以拯救美國的立國理念,重新高舉自由的旗幟,我們不要忘記,他們是站在安蘭德的肩膀之上的。



從箴言閱讀美國歷史2

美國州份其中四個都以New(新)爲開首,包括新澤西州(New Jersey)、紐約(New York)、新罕布什爾州(New Hampshire)及新墨西哥州(New Mexico)。顧名思義,這些州份名稱都顯示與原地方的不同,其箴言更見證美國重大歷史事件。

我們先討論新澤西州(New Jersey)。此州曾受瑞典及荷蘭統治。英國爲了統一其於北美的殖民地,故委任Sir George Carteret奪取新澤西州。由於Sir George Carteret出生於英國的澤西島(Jersey),故他爲此州更名爲New Jersey,以紀念他的家鄉。不過,新澤西州居民愈來愈反對英國統治,故成爲首批爭取獨立的州份。因此,它的箴言「Liberty and Prosperity」正表達人民對自由及繁榮的重視。

紐約的名稱來源與新澤西州相似。紐約曾受荷蘭統治,被稱爲新阿姆斯特丹(New Amsterdam)。荷蘭及英國在海軍發展、商業利益及殖民地存有不少矛盾,故英王查理二世委任其弟弟約克公爵佔領新阿姆斯特丹,並更名爲紐約/新約克(New York)。由於New York地理位置十分優越,所以由古至今都成爲美國及世界重要的商業、貿易及金融中心。因此,它也以excelsior(精益求精)爲其箴言,以勉勵紐約人努力向

新墨西哥州(New Mexico)的名稱與西班牙(Spain)有密切關係。16世紀,墨西哥(Mexico)一直受西班牙統治。其後,西班牙探險隊發現了墨西哥以北的土地,故將其命名為新墨西哥(New Mexico)。在1810年,墨西哥獨立。新墨西哥也成為墨西哥州份。美國及墨西哥在19世紀中期一直因為得克薩斯共和國(Republic of Texas)、邊境等問題存有十分大的分歧。1846年至1848年間,兩國更爆發了美墨戰爭(The US—Mexico War)。最後,美國獲勝。得克薩斯共和國加入美國,成為得克薩斯州(Texas)。美國也獲得加州(California)、內華達州(Nevada)、新墨西哥州等土地。新墨西哥州的箴言是It grows as it goes。其意義是天天向上。美國希望新墨西哥州的加入正可以加強其發展。

美國各州都有自己歷史,箴言及州份名稱正可以讓大家了解他們的故事。如大家對美國歷史感興趣,大家可以去圖書館借閱相關書籍!

撰文:李慧慈(Ada)香港專業進修學校(港專)傳訊與拓展副總監、李慧文(Shida)香港專業進修學校(港專)語言傳意學部主任。Ada & Shida同時身兼香港電台Teen Power《型英營》(TE-EN-GERS)節目主持。



科大明天辦賣物會

香港科技大學上周六舉辦夏季慈善賣物會,共190個攤檔售賣全新或二手物品,提倡5R環保概念——循環再用、廢物利用、減少消耗、替代使用、重新思考,以及可持續發展的宗旨。大學將於本周六(六月六日)舉辦第二場夏季賣物會。

慈善賣物會首辦於1996年,在每年的夏季及冬季舉辦。今年賣物會將於夏季及冬季各舉辦兩次。賣物會上,個人或團體可以出售全新或二手貨品,響應5R環保概念。事實上,某些人的垃圾可以是其他人的寶藏,活動能減少棄置物資、保護環境,促進可持續發展。

境,促進可持續發展。 一如往年,夏季賣物會將租賃賣物枱的收益扣除成本後, 全數捐助指定慈善機構,以不同方式回饋社會。今年的款項將 捐贈予科大學生會社會服務團,支援他們到越南進行義工活動。款項會捐到尼泊爾地震救援基金,以及香港退伍軍人聯會 進行支援香港基層兒童的計劃。大會並會收集合適的二手物

品,轉贈緬甸的慈善團體,協助當地貧困地區的兒童 科大第二場夏季賣物會: 日期:2015年6月6日(星期六)

時間:上午9時30分至下午3時正 地點:香港科技大學停車場地庫三樓