



If I Were King

Democracy is a messy business; perhaps never messier than right now. I have always felt benevolent dictatorship is the more proficient way to govern. It is just a matter of finding the right person, then hoping he or she does not become intoxicated with power or enamored of Swiss bank accounts.

Personally, I think I would make a great Benevolent Dictator, and many, many people (smart people) have told me so when they hear my ideas. For example, in the wake of the financial meltdown of 2007, when millions of hardworking Americans lost their homes to foreclosure, I would have immediately punished those responsible. My solution: hold public executions, perhaps by firing squad or guillotine. Shoot 50 greedy bankers or chop off their heads, and I guarantee there won't be any more funny business at those big national banks for at least 10 years. Oh, and no more gazillion dollar bonuses for Wall Street CEOs or they can get in line with the bankers.

Low wages? Unemployment? They wouldn't exist if I were Benevolent Dictator. McDonald's, Burger King, Chili's, IHOP, and all of those other chains that are fattening up America's kids would have their obscene profits capped at reasonable amounts with the rest of the dough going to higher wages and hiring more employees. Violators? See corrupt bankers and greedy CEOs above.

Health care? No problem. Not only would I be a great Benevolent Dictator, I'm also an amazing dealmaker (ask anyone). I'd talk Canada into allowing sick people who can't afford health care in the USA to hop on a plane and get it for free north of the border. In exchange, I'd give Canada a piece of Florida to call its own. Any health insurance predator who tried to interfere with this system would meet the same fate as the corrupt big bankers, the greedy CEOs, and the fast food chain profiteers.

Now if I were king in Bloomington, you can bet state legislators wouldn't be sneaking bills through at midnight that only apply to our town the way they did to nix annexation. I'm not saying annexation is good or bad, just that the decision should have been debated and made here, not in Indianapolis.

As Benevolent Dictator I would respond to that kind of monkey business by seceding and forming a new state. I, of course, would be the Benevolent Governor. On day one, I would impose a tax on sugary drinks, raise the tax on cigarettes, ban national chains from the downtown, limit the number of bars on the Square, remove the parking meters . . .

Malcolm Abrams
editor@magbloom.com