

A Message from one of the Troika Radical Statistics - a personal view

Philip Bertrand

Radical statisticians are those who care about the numbers that rule everyone's lives. About the numbers that ruin some people's lives. All statisticians like everyone else in society are now under threat of short-term jobs with little prospect of long-term stability. The care and dedication necessary to solve complex social, medical and educational problems are not easily financed. Profiteering organisations do not want to have to answer difficult questions about complex issues on safety, social justice or equality. The socially advantaged would rather sweep all the difficulties they have created into a corner of society which they then scorn. Blaming their disadvantaged victims for their own problems. The problems suffered by the disadvantaged are those created by politicians, by the corruption and fraud of the rich, by accident at work, by medical mistakes, by motor vehicles, by crime, by drugs and by a society that does not care. We have a society which, making an apposite analogy, would rather pass the injured by on the other side of the road than go to their aid.

My Confession

I confess that I too am guilty. Guilty not only in my collective attitude to society but in my relation with the men and women I meet in my everyday life. I, too, pass by on the other side. Like the Pharisee rather than the good Samaritan. By making this confession I hope to alleviate my guilt and conscience. I would rather avoid the problems in society.

After all, we live in a democracy. We have an elected government. Why else should we elect them other than to solve the problems of the social evils that beset us. We have not elected them to create problems. It is their responsibility to solve the problems of society.

Is the government tackling these problems?

Is it solving them?

Is it measuring the problems.

Or is it trying not to see them?

Like a diseased patient with a festering visible sore,

Does the government hope no one can see?

And that no one cares?

My own views are decided too much on prejudice and fear.
I do not want to go out to solve these problems.
The government of day is elected to solve them.
They are too different and complex for me to solve alone.
They are too different and complex for any one of us to solve alone.
The nation needs to collectively solve social problems.
For government to sweep social problems into a corner of society where they can be ignored is irresponsible.
Blind obedience to a political ideology that supposes that the laws of the jungle will resolve the problems of man's inhumanity to man is not acceptable.
Man is more than a carnivorous mammal preying upon his neighbour for profit.