

The Establishment's true colours.



LOL

As per last week's article titled ***Allegiance to Freedom***, no I didn't watch any of the Coronation live TV coverage (and yes the lettuce and cabbages did get transplanted) but I did see some of the footage on Saturday evening's *GB News*.

The very first image I saw was of Charles and Camilla stood on the balcony of Buckingham Palace after the Coronation. My initial reaction was to ***Laugh Out Loud*** because they just looked so ridiculous, like half-baked characters in a silly *Monty Python* sketch, figures of fun ludicrously dressed in fancy dress of white ermine and bright purple with oversized crowns precariously perched on their heads.

The second clip that stuck in my mind was of Charles stood crownless in Westminster Abbey looking utterly miserable. Yes he had become king rather than abdicate and let succession pass to William, yes he had successfully defied his late mother's wishes and made Camilla Queen and yes an oath of allegiance by the people (albeit in modified form) remained in the church Order of Service, but this is how terribly sad and wretched it had all now made him feel.



"In this world there are only two tragedies: one is not getting what one wants, and the second is getting it", Oscar Wilde.

The next footage was of Charles and Camilla's procession out of the Abbey with four young page boys tenderly holding the train of Camilla's long robe, passing the hand picked guests each loyally bowing and curtsying as the couple walked out to their Gold State Coach and then travelled slowly to Buckingham Palace, preceded and followed by the massed ranks of 5000 trusted members of the Armed Forces.

What struck me was that in reality the invited guests were more obsequious, the Establishment more powerful, the pomp more grotesquely extravagant, the elite more molly-coddled but the people less equal, than I had contemplated.



Prince Harry wearing his military colours. But what are the Establishment's true colours?

There was also coverage in the news bulletin of the last minute change to the so-called *Homage of the People*.

The original Order of Service (or Authorised Liturgy) included a *Homage of the People*. This is where the Archbishop of Canterbury would say, "**All who so desire, in the Abbey, and elsewhere, say together: I swear that I will pay true allegiance to Your Majesty, and to your heirs and successors according to law. So help me God**".

However, following a backlash, including critical comments from Charles' friend the broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby, this rather sinister and coercive oath was watered down and reference to *Homage of the People* removed.

The amended written Order of Service read, "I now invite those who wish to offer their support to do so, with a moment of private reflection, by joining in saying God save the King at the end, or, for those with the words before them, to recite them in full".

Despite efforts by some to blame the Archbishop of Canterbury for the inclusion of the original *Homage of the People*, in my view it is inconceivable that Charles would not have

been aware of it. In all probability it originated from the Palace. Every fine detail of the Coronation, including the Order of Service, would have been painstakingly considered by Charles before being approved. He must therefore bear personal responsibility.

In the event, many newspapers included the complete Order of Service in special Coronation editions (I saw one in *The Times* last Saturday). So the Archbishop's invitation for "*those in the Cathedral and with the words in front of them*" (which would include those at home following the printed narrative), was neither one thing nor the other, not a total retraction of the *Homage of the People* but neither a holding of position; weasel words and an unappealing Royal fudge.

Charles would have been very aware of the public disquiet over this issue when it came to light in the days before the Coronation and he could easily have requested that any oath of allegiance by the people be completely dropped. But he chose not to. It may well be 15-20 years before there is another Coronation and there are no big Royal weddings or anniversaries on the horizon, so this was the last chance to capitalise on a huge Royal occasion and it seems that the temptation to exploit the opportunity to obtain servitude was too strong for him to resist.

The final clip from the news highlights was of protesters holding yellow **Not My King** placards. Six protesters including Mr Graham Smith, the chief executive of the campaign group Republic, were controversially arrested at around 7.30 am on Coronation day as they attempted to unload placards and banners from a van near Trafalgar Square.

The Metropolitan Police stated that the arrests were made on the grounds of conspiracy to cause a public nuisance and that the police had received intelligence that the group possessed lock-on devices contrary to the new *Public Order Act 2023*.

Mr Smith was detained at a Police station for 16 hours before being released without charge. On Monday evening Mr Smith said that Met Police officers had called at his home to apologise and inform him that no further action would be taken. However, the apology was not accepted and Mr Smith is quite rightly now considering civil legal action for unlawful arrest and wrongful detention.



Protesters: "The game's up Chaz!". Charles: "Why aren't those scum in the Tower of London?"

Whilst Conservative government ministers tried to defend the arrests as necessary because Britain was on the world stage with millions of TV viewers watching, many other politicians and civil liberty groups expressed serious concerns about the oppressive detentions, which appeared pre-planned.

See link below to a BBC News feature explaining how the new Public Order Act 2023 was used by the Police on Coronation day.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-65540100>

Wasn't it precisely because Britain was on the world stage that the protesters should have been left alone? To show the world that Britain is a country which genuinely respects and celebrates freedom, including the right to assemble and protest peacefully?

Regrettably, whenever the chips are down, whenever cherished freedoms are in peril, the Establishment reverts to type, to the disproportionate use of force and the inappropriate use of power. Whether it was draconian policing during the Covid lockdown of society, discriminatory vaccine mandates, the banning of marches during the *Black Lives Matter* movement or the current Coronation protests, every time when it really comes down to it, the authorities revert to their true colours, the ghastly ***colours of authoritarianism***.

In any event, the Met's decision has proved to be disastrously ill-judged and counter-productive, because the arrests continue to make headlines even now, days after the Coronation ceased to be newsworthy. In other words the Police scored an embarrassing own goal.

And, of course, there were dark clouds and it did rain on last Saturday's Coronation parade.

A portent of what is to come for this new King and the Queen of his choosing?



Prince Louis' perfect Coronation metaphor.

See link below to our "Allegiance to Freedom" article:-

<https://www.ik.im/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/04.05.23-Allegiance-to-Freedom-1.pdf>