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Are Good Men (and Women) doing Nothing?

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"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

(Edmund Burke)

Wow what a month! In over 12 years representing advisers; I have never seen 3 parliamentary events critical of the regulator in one month. The backbenchers have done their job. But now the smoke has cleared; what must advisers do to protect their firms?

The battleground is now clear. We are fighting about whether:

The regulator exists as the Government's undertaker burying the Treasury's problems. If so it must be "Independent" so the Treasury can claim it hasn't interfered. This is what the powerful want as it also allows back door influence away from the public's critical gaze – This is the current direction.

Alternatively, that the regulator exists solely to protect the consumer without fear or favour. In which case the regulator must be accountable to Parliament and the consumer. This is the right path but in the current world of "crony capitalism" is only going to happen with outside pressure.

In the long term; advisers have everything to fear from the current undertaker role and nothing to fear from a consumer driven regulator.

We are inches away from an Animal Farm regulator in which some distributors are more equal than others. Despite their regulatory and claims record - the banks will soon become untouchable – not only too big to fail but too big to be regulated.

However, the regulators will still want their £1bn pa empires - so expect the regulator to turn their guns on the little guys. Facts won't come into it. If the combined PR machines of the FCA and the Treasury want to demonize the Independent sector they will do so. Particularly if, as currently, the majority remain unrepresented.

There are directly authorised 24,000 advisers in the UK. I doubt more than 10% are represented. Unless firms wake up to what is heading towards them they will act too late to be effective.

And that brings me back to where we started. True 250 years ago and True today.

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So join Libertatem today: We have changed our charging bands for 2016.

We have started to make a difference with next to no backing. What could we do if the adviser community united behind us?

You could join Libertatem: £20 per adviser per month collected quarterly for the first 2 advisers and £10 per month collected quarterly; for the 3rd adviser onwards.

Email me back at dg@libertatem.org.uk and I will send you the forms.

You could also fund our Fighting Fund: We have already raised £29,000 of the £50,000 we needed to raise but we need the rest.

Send your funds by transfer to: Sort Code: 23-05-80 - Account No: 16634007 – Account Name: Libertatem Ltd or by cheque to: Libertatem Ltd, "The Clare Charity Centre", Wycombe Road, Saunderton, Buckinghamshire HP14 4BF.

You can also use your credit card.

You could ring me on 01494 569059 to tell me I am wasting my time or volunteer to help.