

The Australian

Liberal's moral question for Labor

- David Nason
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- July 01, 2010 12:00AM

JULIA Gillard's assassination of Kevin Rudd assaulted the values of fairness and loyalty that parents try to instil in children, says Shane Stone.

In a letter to The Australian, the former federal Liberal Party president says the public should not accept disloyalty in politics because "children learn by example".

Mr Stone likens Mr Rudd's demise to "a pack of lions singling out the most vulnerable of the wildebeest".

He says public acceptance will only reinforce values that parents hope their children will never embrace.

Ms Gillard's ascension represents "a moral challenge for those who care about how we govern". Mr Stone also says voters were robbed of their right to pass judgment on the prime minister.

"Kevin Rudd had an appointment with the Australian people and he had every entitlement to contest the next election," he says.

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Rudd's knifing raises questions of morality for Labor

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- **23 comments**

DO you value loyalty? Have you sought to instil in your children a sense of fairness and honesty? Do you value your vote and the right to change government?

I am a conservative who never supported the actions of John Kerr. Whitlam's dismissal was my right as an elector. Kevin Rudd had an appointment with the Australian people and every entitlement to contest the next election.

So how did you explain the events of last week to your children? I suppose you said things like "that's politics". Let's face it, disloyalty is an art form in politics because people wrongly accept it as part of the game. Like a pack of lions singling out the most vulnerable of the wildebeest, the execution is premeditated and celebrated. Last Wednesday night looked like a reality-TV show, but the leadership of our country is more important. What occurred in Canberra represents a moral challenge for those who care about how we govern and by whom. Rudd was entitled to be judged by the people, not backroom boys intent on advancing their own prospects.

There is a crisis of confidence in politicians, much of it self-inflicted. The rorting of entitlements, manifest incompetence, poor public behaviour and policy backflips have done the damage. Disloyalty, lies, double dealing are the icing on the cake. My pollster friend tells me the punters don't care. They should. How else can we expect to instil in our children qualities such as loyalty, truthfulness and commitment when the nation's leadership fails so miserably.

Shane L. Stone, Former chief minister NT, federal president of the Liberal Party

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Democracy in action

- From: **The Australian**
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SHANE Stone (Letters, 1/7) says that Kevin Rudd had every entitlement to contest the next election. If Labor had won that election, would Rudd have had every right to contest the subsequent election, and the one after that?

Just how long would the Labor Party caucus have had to wait before it regained an entitlement to choose its leader? Until Rudd lost an election?

No, this is democracy in action. The job of prime minister is not an entitlement belonging to anyone; it is a prize dependent on the support of party colleagues in the parliament.

Jack Hoysted, Hong Kong, China