

TEXT OF ANONYMOUS LETTER CIRCULATED TO ALL CONSERVATIVE MPs ON HOUSE OF COMMONS NOTEPAPER

“A few of us have met a number of times over the last few weeks. We cover many of the intakes of the parliamentary party.

We all know that the expenses crisis is a massive problem, but it has brought out clear evidence of what all of us had sensed and feared, namely that the party in parliament has ceased to be a team effort and is now just run and dictated to for the personal advantage of David Cameron and George Osborne. We are concerned that the parliamentary party is just being used and abused by the leader and his inner circle. They are treating the party as if it is their private property.

Action is being taken to respond to the expenses scandal but its main purpose actually seems to be to build up a position for themselves of permanent power. Colleagues are threatened with expulsion, older members are being forced out, untested candidates are being invited to apply from nowhere, and all of it is designed to assert a Stalinist hold over the party. The importance of parliament is being sacrificed to help them.

This despotic power is worrying, and copies all the faults of Labour which is bringing them now to such a dismal end.

We are supposed to believe in justice and fairness, yet now we face summary justice in a kangaroo court. Why should any of us ever have to face the unconstitutional humiliation of having our fate decided by the likes of Jeremy Middleton and Edward Llewellyn? The offensive Middleton letter is thought to have had the blessing of the leader himself, and if a leader's chief of staff has such poor judgment that he thinks he is superior to MPs, then he is unsuitable for the job and should be sacked.

Expenses is not the issue that exercises us – it is how we are being led. Any general who promoted himself by sacrificing his own troops might expect to be shot. Yet we are getting exactly the sort of top-down despotism David Cameron says he dislikes.

We came into politics because we believe in something and because we want to campaign for our beliefs. Where are those clear political beliefs now?

Labour in meltdown is led by a deeply flawed PM; the Lib Dems are led by a pathetic non-entity; but we are being led by two people of no experience who seem to be more interested in short-term media management than in telling people what they stand for.

We want a Conservative government that is there to serve the country, not one that is just there for its own sake. That is how we will restore respect. We look forward to hearing colleagues views in the Tea Room. “