

Speech delivered by Dr. Rami Ranger MBE, at dinner hosted by the British Asian Conservative Link in honour of the Rt. Hon. Francis Maud MP, Chairman of the Conservative Party on 19th September at the Carlton Club, London.

Introduction of Top Table, Ms Smita Purushottam, Minister High Commission of India, Mrs Ranbir Suri, Rt Hon Francis Maude MP, Chairman of the Conservative Party, Mr Ranbir Suri JP, Chairman BACL, Mr Dominic Grieve MP, Shadow Attorney General, Dr Rami Ranger, MBE, FRSA General Secretary, Baroness Sandy Verma, Mr Ashok Verma and Mr Shantoo Ruparell, Vice Chairman BACL.

Mr Ashok Verma. Without Mr Verma's support, we would not have had Baroness Verma. He is to Sandy as Dennis was to Margaret Thatcher.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Carlton Club, a historic place and a historic dinner. Historic, because we are honouring someone who has changed the fortunes of our Party for good? It has now become a fighting force, able to win election after election. He brought about this revolution without firing a single bullet. Today we have a Party which is untied and has a clear vision for Britain. Before I tell you more about Francis and the BACL, I would like remind you that politics and drinks do not mix. You must have noticed that I have been careful and have been drinking Pure French White Water in order to avoid any such mishaps like the one, Lord George Brown, Foreign Secretary in Harold Wilson's Government had during their state visit to Argentina. Mr. Wilson knew that George had a habit of mixing drinks with politics so he warned him not to drink during the state banquet. Regrettably, George could not help himself and had one too many. At dinner, he was seated next to a beautiful lady. The minute the music started, George got up and asked the lady for a dance. She refused point blank. George was stunned at her abrupt response and asked her reason for refusal. She replied – I will give you three good reasons:

- 1. Firstly, you are drunk and in no position to dance.**
- 2. Secondly, I am head of the church of Buenos Aires and it is forbidden for me to dance in public.**
- 3. Thirdly, they are playing my country's national anthem.**

Now, I will tell you a little about the British Asian Conservative Link. The BACL was set up to encourage Asians to become more publicly and politically spirited in Britain. We have been here for many decades and are no longer immigrants. We must now take part in the decision making process of our country. This will automatically give us a sense of belonging to this great nation. Secondly, to support Asian candidates who find some local Tory Associations unfriendly and unwelcoming. Politics at times can be a daunting prospect where people undermine others in order

to surge ahead without realizing the consequences of their actions to the Party and to the Nation as a whole.

The BACL provides support and encouragement to those who wish to join our Party, in particular the Asians. I give you one example – Ealing & Southall where over 60% of the population is Asian, yet in the past there were hardly any Asian members in the Association. I am pleased to inform you that the BACL has changed the Association for good by recruiting many members from the local area and they in turn have changed the fortunes of our Party. We have amongst us new recruits to the area like Manjit, Amarjeet, Pushpinder, Ricky, Ravi, Surinder and Rajinder. I am pleased to inform you that we took control of the Council after 8 years. This just shows that there aren't any "no-go" areas for us if we all work together for the good of our Party.

I must mention how grateful we are to Dominic for his continued support. Without him, things would have been more difficult for us. He is a credit to our Party and an asset to our country.

Today, we are honouring our Chairman who is the architect of the new Conservative Party, the Rt. Hon. Francis Maude MP. It is he who with David Cameron has put our Party into forward mode. Francis understands that in any democratic society, political parties must reflect the true makeup of society if they are to represent the country as a whole. No country can ever enjoy community cohesion unless political parties offer equality to all regardless of colour or ethnic background. We must never create liabilities by discriminating against people purely on racial or religious grounds. We cannot all be blonde and blue eyed. No country can ever progress by leaving a section of its population behind. We are all British first. What matters in the end is what we can do for Britain. Thanks to British tolerance and sense of fair play, we are now an asset rather than a liability to the Nation.

I would like to urge Francis to be as determined as he is to see more women and ethnic people in the House of Commons, similarly to see more in the House of Lords as well. Justice should be seen to be done. Where the Local Associations discriminate against ethnic candidates and fail them in realizing their potential for the country, there they should be elevated to the Lords so that they can still make a valuable contribution to the nation and also send a clear signal that the party does not tolerate racism in any shape or form. Our community is indebted to Francis for elevating Lord Sheik and Baroness Verma this year. The House will be the richer with their presence and the country will benefit from their experience. It has also reassured people that progressing in the Tory party is not like climbing Mount Everest.

Finally, all those who wish to enter politics must learn the art of public speaking. There is no better person to teach us than George W Bush Jnr. Here are some examples which will show you how ordinary words can become extra-ordinary when spoken eloquently and articulately in the style of Mr. Bush.

Here we go:

Mr Bush was recently discussing the trade imbalance with China and this is what he said, "The vast majority of our imports come from outside the country". For the benefit of Congress a very complicated matter made so simple with a sentence !!

In Texas, this is what he said when addressing students, "If we don't succeed, then we run the risk of failure". Simple and straight forward advice. Unlike Labour, no spin needed.

Speaking during his visit to NASA, this is what he said "For NASA, space is still high priority", in case we forget what NASA do!!!!

This is what he said to the Governor of Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina, - "One word sums up the responsibility of any Governor and that one word is- To- be- prepared". Simple logic you ignore at your peril.

During his visit to the NATO headquarters, this is what he said "we have a firm commitment to NATO. We are part of NATO. We have a firm commitment to Europe. We are part of Europe". Now you know why he thinks Britain is part of USA and Mr Blair his Prime Minister.

Here are some valuable tips for Francis when talking to the pollsters in the style of the master- "a low voter turnout is an indication of fewer people going to the polls". Mystery of voter apathy solved with a stroke.

As a Chairman, this is how Francis should tell all those reluctant Tory supporters, "The Tory future will be better tomorrow".

If this fails to convince the public, then here is an ace: Under my Chairmanship. the Tory Party is now ready for any unforeseen event that may or may not occur".

Thank you and enjoy the rest of the evening. May I now ask the Chairman, Mr Ranbir Suri JP to proceed with the evening but before that I would like to present Francis with a book on the life of my father showing how important it is for us all to live in peace and harmony.