

Speech delivered by Dr. Rami Ranger on the 21st June 2007 at the Carlton Club at the dinner hosted in honour of the Rt. Hon. James Arbuthnot MP.

Distinguished Guests Ladies & Gentlemen welcome to the Carlton Club. We are privileged to have the Rt. Hon. James Arbuthnot MP, Chairman of the House of Commons Defence Select Committee as our guest of tonight.

Before I say any thing, it is customary to give a brief introduction of the British Asian Conservative Link to those who have come here for the first time and also to our guest of honour so that the rationale behind the BACL can be fully understood.

Regrettably, we lost elections for a second time when William Hague was our leader. It was no reflection on William; it was simply because our opponents had changed by adopting some of our policies and caught us by surprise. It became apparent that if we were to win back power, then we too had to change and had to bring back those who had left us and were now working against us. Above all, in order to attract new voters, the Party had to become "Ethnic Friendly", especially when the ethnic started to represent large numbers.

To achieve this, it was essential for the Party to reflect the make up of present day British Society. We also needed Ethnic Role Models to attract votes from their respective communities. Regrettably, we could not find anyone in the Party who was making a conscious effort to attract the ethnic votes to the Tory cause, especially when we could not win back inner city seats without them. We also found the attitude of some in the Party to be completely outdated. They felt that people of ethnic origin should be seen but not heard. The feelings of the Asians was that the Tory Party was full of patronizing people who looked down upon them and did not welcome them as equals.

With this in mind, the BACL was set up with the help of like minded people. The idea was to create a platform which could promote Asians amongst the Tory Leaders and Tory Leaders amongst the Asian community. It was also important to demonstrate to the Party that if taken seriously we could easily become beneficial to the Party in terms of votes and money. More importantly, in a democracy everyone has a vote regardless of their colour or wealth. A vote to the other Party is in fact a loss of two to us. We know in business that when a bad employer does not look after his staff, the staff either works for the competition or start their own businesses. Either way the bad employer loses out. In this case, the Tory party was losing out.

I am afraid it was not easy until now to bring home the message that the species which will survive will not be the cleverest or the strongest but the one which can adapt to change. I personally had to ruffle a few feathers before they could understand that change was essential if we were to win back power. We at the BACL felt that in order to build bridges between our community and the Party, we must organize dinners and functions such as this one tonight to bring the two closer to each other in order to change the perception of each other.

The results are in front of us and I am glad to say that the Asians are coming back to the Party of their natural values. I am sure that after tonight many of you will feel that the Tories are good people who are working hard to save the nation from the wrath of Mr Gordon Brown's prudent policies of relieving us of our hard earned money.

I am very pleased to say that The Party has now become Ethnic Friendly. It is now offering winnable seats to Asians. Preeti Patel could not come tonight as she is abroad, but we do have with us the future Tory MP Mr Paul Uppal and his wife from Wolverhampton. The Party is now going out of the way to celebrate diversity. There are now visible Asian role

models like Lord Sheikh and Baroness Verma in our Party. The message is now being heard loud and clear that getting ahead in the Tory Party for Asians is no more like climbing Mount Everest.

Finally, about our guest of honour, Mr. Colin Malam will tell you more. All I can say is that James is a fine man who is also a genuine person. He is Queen's Counsel by profession and an MP by choice. He is married to charming Judge Emma . You will agree that only a smart QC can charm a Judge enough to make her his bride. How can he ever lose a case when the judge is always on his side?

I once asked James as to why he decided to give up his lucrative career in Law and became an MP.

He said he realized that Law was not for him when he saw a small town prosecuting attorney call his first witness to the stand, who was a grand elderly woman and asked.

"Mrs. Jones do you know me? "

She responded,

"Why, yes I do know you Mr. Williams. I have known you ever since you were a young boy and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize that you will never amount to anything more than a two bit paper pusher. Yes. I know you."

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs. Jones, Do you know the defence attorney? "

She replied again,

"Why, yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster too. He's lazy, bigoted and has a drinking problem. He can not build a normal relationship with anyone and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire county. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women, One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him."

The defence attorney almost died.

The judge asked both the counsels to approach the bench and in a very quiet voice said, "If either of you bastards asks her if she knows me, I'll throw you in jail for contempt".

James decided to play safe and became an MP!!

I will now invite the Chairman Mr. Ranbir Suri to welcome you all.