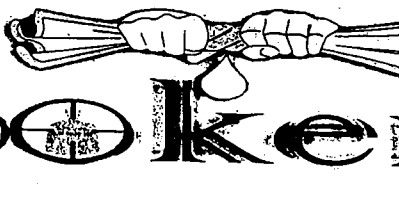


12/16/01

OUT SPOKE



Open Letter From Hall To Kennedy

Dear Editor,

Robert Kennedy Jr., the high priced Attorney for the (U.S) National Resources Defense Council has been invited to Belize by anti-development expatriates to make a pitch to keep the people of this country poor and oppressed by making a pitch for the environment on behalf of these..... well, former drifters who now believe they could run this country as it was before the 50s or even before we attained our independence.

Don't be fooled Mr. Kennedy and please, don't get lost.

We welcome Mr. Kennedy to Belize and we hope that unlike the al-Queda groups, he will respect the sovereignty and national integrity of this small country in Central America.

Mr. Kennedy, who was earlier this year arrested and jailed in Puerto Rico, also advocated civil disobedience as a "right thing to do at some point in a democracy".

We do not adhere to that principle and we disagree with you Mr. Kennedy and so, we are certain, would your present President George W. Bush and the former President from your family..

Mr. Kennedy who was hooked on drugs for many years and also divorced, may have found a profitable niche in life by joining the club of extremist environmentalists who have become known for trying to trash to U.S. economy and wave the ugly American big stick globally. Why not try this in China Sir? They are building a huge dam and are displacing millions of people. All the same it has been reported recently that their displaced people are getting better homes and that their lives will be improved.

We welcome you to Belize Mr. Kennedy but only if you want to be a part of the solution to our problems and to assist this young nation and its people out of the quagmire of poverty and towards self sufficiency and sustainable development.

You must understand Sir, that our development is guided by the sacred principles that are enshrined in the United Nations Charter, and its principles on the Human Environment.

You and others like you (and I bring this to the attention of the U.S. Embassy in Belize), must understand that we have our environmental laws of procedures. We would also like to bring to your attention a Resolution, which was adopted by the World Conservation Congress, calling for respect for our environmental laws and due process.

Certainly we cannot support your position on civil disobedience. Neither do we appreciate your interfer-

ence in our affairs. We are aware that your organization has created a cottage industry in Belize by financing opposition to our development, specifically the development our hydro resources for the benefit of our country, by bankrolling a newspaper editor, a self-styled writer from some tiny island in Oceania and, of course a former vagabond Lion tamer who has found in our dam some kind of misguided purpose to her life.

But we are a democracy and we must respect this. However if you and your organization continue to encourage this sort of covert interference in our affairs, it would probably be appropriate for us to lodge a protest to your government. In fact Ministers of the Environment of Central America already have.

During the Energy crisis in California earlier this year, Mr. Kennedy, we saw you on CNN trying to address that important national issue in your country. We were disappointed, for despite recognition of you as a public speaker (as any Attorney like you ought to be) you spoke in academic and superficial language offering no solution to assist industries that were losing million of dollars daily while many thousands of Americans were made jobless because of black-out. And yes, nuclear energy has, as you said, become expensive. What you did not say is that this has been a result of the high litigation fees these energy providers had to meet in legally defending and justifying the use of this source of energy.

Do you have an air-conditioned car Mr. Kennedy? Do you live in an air-conditioned house Sir? Do you work out of a high-rise office with wall-to-wall carpet, central heating and air-conditioning? Have you ever experienced starvation? Have you ever been denied or have been unable to have access to modern technology including a computer? Have you ever had to study by candlelight or have no electricity to turn on your TV?

Until your noble ideals can relate to these then you will agree that your paradigms do not fit into the developmental model for poor nations. That being the case Mr. Kennedy, your visit is not relevant. You could make it relevant though in helping us to fight the scourge of AIDS and funding a drug rehabilitation center for our young people. These are very relevant issues to us.

What are your solutions? More civil disobedience? Your own government may regard your action as perhaps—global terrorism? The definition has never been clearly defined.

Sincerely,
Norris Hall