

Trust of authorities, an essential requirement if a security agency is to become an effective protective entity...

The defiance of established authority, as a worldwide phenomenon is likely to be accounted as the outstanding event of the next decade.

Today, the tide of disrespect for authority is running stronger than ever.

For example, a recent report in *The Times* of London states: “Some parents refuse to accept the authority of the teacher over their child and when attempts are made to discipline a child they complain”. I suspect that in England, as in Australia, the frequency of parents turning up at a school and not just threatening a teacher but attacking them for disciplining their child has increased significantly in the last decade.

Children claiming their “rights” are being conditioned to flout the authority of both parents and teachers, and it is reasonable to expect a new generation with no respect for authority and little idea of right and wrong. This new generation comprised of peers that see the world as not being fair, and that nothing lasts forever including employment.

It would be incorrect to conclude, however, that distrust of authority characterizes only the younger generation. There is a growing number of people of all ages that view any kind of authority with distrust, even contempt. Does this mean that no authority can be trusted?

If exercised properly, authority, defined as “the power or right to control, judge, or prohibit the actions of others”, can be a force for good. Authority that benefits both the individual and the community should be the outcome of any power given to a government entity.

Who can say that they are not grateful that the police have the authority to search for criminals that break into our homes and threaten our family? Do we not appreciate the courts that have the authority to punish these criminals. Other helpful services, including ASIO also come to mind.

Respect for duly appointed authority is essential. But how far should this respect go? And in what activities is respect for authority called for? These are the questions your inquiry should endeavour to answer.

Consider for a moment the comments of George Young, a former MI6 deputy chief during a recent BBC interview.

Young stated he had few qualms about ordering someone killed in peacetime if he felt it was in the national interest. "It is the spy who has been called upon to remedy the situation caused by deficiencies of ministers, diplomats, generals and priests," he said. "We do not have to develop... the ability to produce the ready phase, the smart reply and the flashing smile. And so it is not surprising these days that the spy finds himself the main guardian of intellectual integrity (The Weekend Australian 22 July 2000)."

It is my opinion that intellectual integrity is the stated claim of mind, of those that assassinate, lead coups, and resort to violence as a means to an end.

It is difficult for me to comment with regard to the enemies that ASIO protect us from because I have few experiences in that area to guide me. However, as a former police officer and Fitzgerald Inquiry witness with a favourable service certificate, I can only conclude that terrorism, drug trafficking, prostitution using illegal immigrants, and money laundering is the focus of it's activities. And, as to what extent certain members of ASIO manufacture scares to justify budgets, their actions, and to gather support for greater power -- *who is to say!*

My father, who was also a police officer, taught me many years ago that a police officer was only as good as his or her information. And, that if a conspiracy is suspected it usually does not exist and if a conspiracy exists, it is usually not suspected. This wisdom came out of many years of experience on the streets and as a result of some very hard lessons including treachery.

It only takes one bad apple to soil the barrel.

Regarding if we the people should allow ASIO the power to hack computers, turn sound cards and web cams on and never have to tell the subject of their inquiries. You're joking right, Aren't you?

Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

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