

Bologna, September 8 2007 – Massimo Fini

*I would like to hand over to a man who is tough, who has always been tough and has always been contrary. He has written some extraordinary books. The man's name is Massimo Fini. Thanks Massimo.*

I am obviously in agreement with the three basic tenets of V-Day, namely, that there should be no convicts in Parliament, that no Parliamentarian should be permitted to serve more than two terms and that we should go back to choosing our own candidates. I believe that this is one way to make presentable something that is not currently presentable, something that is indecent, a form of fraud. This is called representative democracy.

I have always defined representative democracy, and continue to do so, as a way of scr...wing people with their permission, especially poor people. Above all, we have never really understood precisely what representative democracy is. Norberto Bobbio, who dedicated his entire lengthy and laborious life to this subject, cannot get to the bottom of it. At various times, he has indicated sometimes nine, sometimes six and sometimes three elements as being essential for a representative democracy. Whatever the case may be, we will look at two elements that are generally accepted as being essential for democracy, namely, all votes must be equal or, as the British say, one man, one vote, and everyone must be free to vote. Well for starters, all votes are not equal: consensus is simply an illusion. The definitive reason why all votes are not equal was amply illustrated by what has become known as the Italian Elitist School of the early nineteen hundreds, namely Gaetano Mosca, Vilfredo Pareto and Roberto Michels. Mosca states that: "A hundred people who always act in unison and by agreement will always manage to overcome a thousand others acting freely" Consensus is not free because it is widely affected by the mass media, not coincidentally also called the instrument of consensus, which is in the hands of the usual handful of well known people.

In reality, representative democracy is a system of oligarchies, organised minorities and masked aristocracies that trample the individual citizen, the free man who does not wish to humiliate himself by become a slave of these oligarchies, parties or other economic or criminal groupings that are so often linked together. Representative democracy should be the very thing that free thought would want to enhance, namely, merit, ability and potential, and the ideal citizen in a democracy becomes its designated victim.

Without delving too deeply into theory, the fact remains that we are all aware that we count for nothing and that our voice is not being heard. Some years ago, in Piazza San Giovanni, a million people were brought together because of ad personam legislation, a very difficult topic indeed, when it is, in fact, far easier to bring people together for economic reasons. Well, there was no response whatsoever, neither from the right, nor from the left. On the contrary, in the left wing it was often said "non mi confonderai con un girotondino" (surely you're not calling me a girotondino), as if street demonstration were not the citizen's primary political right, even before the right to vote.

The problem is one of global democracy, in the west, however, as Grillo has so ably demonstrated, the Italian system has suffered a certain intolerable decay. Hans Kelsen, who is neither a Marxist nor a Taleban extremist, used to say that representative democracy is simply a set of illusions, and he maintained that the apparent function of democratic ideology is to provide citizens with an illusion of freedom. He also asked himself how long this extraordinary division between reality and ideology could continue. This is the very same question that I have been asking myself for quite some time now. Naturally, the kind of democracy founded on bloodbaths have put on a conceptual lid, a kind of closure regulation, maintaining that democracy is the be all and end all of History and

that we are all, therefore, condemned to die as democrats. I, instead, believe that sooner or later it will all come to an end, as does any system that fails to comply with any of its premises. It won't be a unique event, like this wonderful event organised by Beppe, nor will it happen in Grillo's lifetime, or mine for that matter. But sooner or later a fraud such as this will have to be eliminated. Thank you

*Thank You Massimo.*