

Pan-democrats must try to adopt a more conciliatory approach

Republican congressman Matt Salmon, leader of a three-man delegation from the US House Foreign Affairs Committee that recently met senior political figures from the pro-government and pro-democratic camps, said that "moving forward, sometimes half a loaf is better than no loaf", as a hint at compromise on the 2017 electoral reform ("US took no role in Occupy, Leung told", May 10).

This down-to-earth suggestion should be looked into by our lawmakers, both pro-government and pan-democratic, who need to have further meetings with central government officials.

In the arrangements made by the government for lawmakers to meet top mainland officials, there could be two levels of meetings: the first level, with all participating lawmakers meeting together, and the second level with senior members of the pro-democratic and pro-government camps participating to facilitate in-depth exchange with mainland officials.

The latter meeting could explore:

- Agreeing that the government's reform package for 2017 is a pilot scheme that could be reviewed later for improvements to be considered for the next chief executive election in 2022; and
- Agreeing that if the pan-democratic camp withdraws its threat to veto the government's proposals at Legco next month, there will be ongoing discussions by all parties, including the pan-democratic camp, on further reforming the legislative council by 2020.

The pan-democrats oppose the government's political package primarily on the grounds that it does not conform to universal standards and so is fake democracy.

The government's proposals conform to the Basic Law and the August 31, 2014 decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and are therefore in accordance with the rule of law.

The pan-democratic camp should recognise that under the "one country, two systems" framework, their vetoing of the government's political reform package will constitute a serious gap in mutual understanding and cooperation in their relations with the central government.

This will not augur well for Hong Kong's future as a special administrative region of China in terms of our city's need for economic growth, political stability and strengthening our competitiveness to improve the livelihood of our seven million citizens.

I urge our pan-democratic legislators to adopt a more conciliatory approach in meetings with top mainland officials where the maxim "moving forward, sometimes half a loaf is better than no loaf" is worth bearing in mind.

泛民須改姿態 和解方為上策

英文原文刊於《南華早報》2015年5月21日

美國國會眾議院的外交事務委員會三人代表團最近訪港，分別與建制派和泛民的資深領袖會面，率領代表團的眾議員邵建隆說：「向前走，有時候半條麵包比沒有麵包好。」，不啻是 2017 政改應妥協的提示。（5 月 10 日報道）

這個實事求是的建議，建制派和泛民立法會議員都不可掉以輕心，他們需與中央政府官員作多作會面。

立法會議員與大陸高層官員會面的安排可以有兩個層次，第一個層次是所有議員一起會面，第二個層次是由建制派和泛民的資深成員參與，有利與大陸官員作深入交流。

第二層次的會面可以探討：

- 同意政府的 2017 政改方案是第一步，其後可作檢討，考慮是否可以改善 2022 年的下屆行政長官選舉；以及
- 同意若泛民陣營撤回要脅在下月立法會大會上否決政府的方案，包括泛民在內的各方將會就改革 2020 年立法會事宜繼續磋商。

泛民反對政府政改方案的基本理據是不符普世標準和假民主。

政府的建議符合《基本法》和人大常委會的 8•31 決定，所以是符合法治。

泛民理應知道，按「一國兩制」的原則，否決政府的政改方案會把他們與中央政府互相了解和合作的關係裂開一道鴻溝。

這對香港作為中國的特別行政區來說並非好事，本地有需要作經濟發展、保持政治穩定，以及加強競爭力以改善七百萬市民生活，但這些都將會大受影響。

本人呼籲泛民立法會議員以和解的姿態與大陸的高層官員會面，「向前走，有時候半條麵包比沒有麵包好」這個忠言不可不聽。

土瓜灣張有興