

# Issues on Enhancement for Politician's Morality

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## I. Introduction

Our society has hold an absolute dictatorship for more than 40 years under the name of "industrial development." Under this circumstance, it is a natural phenomena that politicians and bureaucrats become corrupt. Nevertheless, persons belong to the intellectual class such as the area of education, religion, press, medical service, and legal profession need to stand up and argue for the social morality in order to maintain a sound society. However, their morality has deteriorated as well.

The prevailing corruption in the society has become quite serious problems. Due to these social perception, one often confuses his/her decision on choice between corruption and absolute power. In order to scrape out these deep-rooted corruption without the violent revolution, self-examination of politicians, bureaucrats, and leaders as well as reformation of social system ought to be practiced. Among other things, particularly the institutionalization for enhancement of politicians' morality and clean politics is an urgent task. The reason is that the top policy makers who usually have a strong influence to the civilian are the most important group to make a better society. It is a same as a common wisdom that "clean-upper stream makes clean lower stream."

Therefore, this paper examines the role of politics and the public morality of politicians, and searches for realistic solutions in order to scrape out those corruption.

## II. Politicians' Political Morality

### 1. Politics and Role of Politician

If politics is to realize a consistant existence of a community and public interest in the democratic society, it can be also described as means for guarantee the public

interest and goods of a community against private interest in order to achieve public order and justice of a community. In addition, if politics is understood as a function of the Legislature which is a symbol of the representative democracy under the separate power system, as well as a counterpart of administration, then a function of politics or politician is also derived from the function of Congress.

Generally speaking, Congress or Congressman does participate in the process of public policy decision making as well as have a responsibility for controlling the Executive through various activity as a representative of the people. In the legal aspects, Congress is supposed to exercise its power according to the Constitution and the law in order to control the Executive as an institution of the representative of people, the Legislature, and government control.

## **2. Politician and Politician's Morality**

One who has a Machiavellian-morality argues that political morality is different from that of private morality, so there is no need for morality in politics, and if there are any, then "political morality" that fits only in the politics is required. However, if the role of politics is a basis for providing cooperation and direction among the community members to overcome disagreement for the public interest, it is a necessary to have the morality of politics. Therefore, political morality is not a law but a moral norm that politician should follow.

## **3. A Basis and Contents of Political Morality**

Political morality can be understood in many ways because the morality itself has a variety meaning according to the history, social background, environment and a person's value. That is, there are many arguments among scholars for the basis of the political morality such as a representative morality, a national morality, a transcendency morality and etc. However, according to a continental law, nation holds not transitional social phenomena but the values for the substance as an organic body. Therefore, it is necessary to have political morality for the protection and the development of the interest of the national substance.

The contents of political morality also have a disagreement between negative and passive, and positive and active standpoints. According to a negative standpoint of political morality, the government official as a public servant should obey a norm that the society requires for. Therefore, it is necessary to have a code of conduct for the government official, and if they violate this code, they should be punished by some type of a law or a moral constitution. We do follow this standpoint.

### **III. Ways to Enhance for Politicians' Morality**

D.H. Bayely from his paper, "Developing Countries and Political Corruption," suggests that the corruption of public officials including politicians is to some degree a product of the environment itself which indicates the underdevelopment in socio-political conditions, and thus, we need to consider three alternatives to eradicate such a corrupt behavior.

First, alternative is to adopt policies to control corruptions severe than now, and to passively wait for the transition of the environment.

Second, alternative is to preempt any possibility of corruptions by applying strict punishments to those behaviors.

Third, alternative is to stress psychological changes by reforming the soils for corruption.

These three strategies are not necessarily mutually exclusive, and thus a mixture of these three suggests that the political and corruption system of a nation should be based on a clear understanding of their roles for the society. These opinions should not be considered an exception to our country.

In fact, our country, like other nations, has attempted to redeem the public responsibility of civil services by introducing the subject for civil ethics at the national civil service examinations, and by providing courses for mental education at on-the-job training, and by establishing legal bases such as the law of the ethics of civil services(1981), the doctrine for the ethics of national councillors and so forth, when political regime was changed or corruption was prevalent within our society. But, it is my judgement that they have not been very successful.

Accordingly, in this short essay, I will attempt to propose several basic guidelines for policies to secure at least an acceptable level of morality among civil services.

#### **1. Establishing a desirable image for politicians**

It cannot be overemphasized the necessity that politicians assuming very important roles in national politics be politicians striving for a clear and moral politics at the national assembly with high pride and responsibility, but not be politicians pursuing only black money and power. The directions which politicians should pursue are as follows.

First, they should be sincere leaders. If politicians, who are supposed to work for public interest, are eager for their private interests and powers, and run on to commit hypocrisy, deception, and fallable promises, it is obvious that people will do the same things following after him.

Second, they should be clean. In the political arena, they are supposed to assume

the role as the representatives or the mediators of special interests which are more or less universal in character. In this process, the external virtue that politicians should have is integrity through abstinence, and thus the ideal image for them is a clean mediator.

Thirdly, politicians should be responsible experts for legislation. No one may deny that each politicians should be concerned about their tasks first and carry them out faithfully in order for them to become a prospective politician.

## **2. Complementing the law for the ethics of civil services**

In order to make the law for the ethics of civil services be practically effective in preventing dishonesty and corruption, it is necessary to broaden the concept of dishonesty or corruption, and the scope of applications as possible as we can.

First, clear standards for the types and degrees of corrupt behaviors should be established.

Second, we need to punish not only civil servants involved in dishonest and corrupt behaviors but also the corporations and private citizens who caused the civil servants commit such crimes.

Third, strict punishments should be applied to dishonest and corrupt behaviors. Such punishments should be more severe for the crimes committed by politicians or high-ranking civil servants.

## **3. Increasing and legalizing political funds**

There are two issues with regard to political funds. One is the necessity to secure substantial amount of political funds. The other is the necessity to prevent political corruption generating from the process of giving, receiving, and using the money.

First, donations of political funds should be increased by vitalizing the activities of political action committee. Especially, a concentration of political funds and the individualization of political parties should be prevented by activating political action committees for individual politicians.

Second, the scope of the object of the law for political funds should be stretched out. We need to give each candidates the privilege of using free mails, broadcasting facilities, tax-exemptions and so forth, as well as the aids based on the law for political funds. Also we, like the U.S.A., need to legalize the activities for raising campaign funds.

Third, we need to find out the way how to reduce the demand for political funds and lead politics to a politics of low costs. A revision of election districts, an introduction of the voting system based on the political party registers, an establishment of the offices of each political party as the liaison offices, and reinforcement of politi-

cal education for civilians could be alternatives for that purpose. I.e. we need to encourage people to have a cognition that they, as benefiteres, should bear expenses for politics.

#### **4. Establishing a sound-lobbying system**

Since various private segments in our society are equally developed than as ever, we need to have a more mature system of coordination to promote the competition and coordination of interests rather than to regulate private sectors uniformly. Accordingly, it is required the effort to induct lobbying activities to the arena of political process as a coordination system. For this purpose, it is necessary that we need to revise some clauses in the related acts which strictly regulate lobbying activities connected to the donation of political funds, and create various conditions to allow each interest group lobby freely as a pressure group.

In fact, lobbies must be restricted by any form in the face of a social justice and their inner limitation. Therefore, we must enact a special act such a lobby restriction act to punish any violation of articles being eliminated in the act.

#### **5. Strengthening of the self control in congress**

In a ripen democratic nations, the congress is the core of political mechanism, made up of competent elite and deal with value problem over our society. Therefore, it is desirable which autonomically entrust the member of national assembly with problem related to their own morality.

Congress in united state have been an unwritten law on the pride and the works of a congressman. In our National Assembly, the authority of disciplinary punishment must be departed from the law-making committee and given to the morality special committee. Under the base of this system, we must think about the method to make unwritten law over the congress morality.

#### **6. Increment of law-making activity expenditure**

To make a politician as desirable politician, the most important thing is to make law maker without being influenced by money.

A member of Assembly earns four million won at most, it is too small for him to concentrate his mind upon political activity like organization management. Many analyses showed that these facts interfere with law making activity. As comparing with incomes of other public servant, it is difficult to raise their incomes rapidly but it must be increased gradually in permissible limit.

Particularly this system will be helpful to make poor politician of the minority party

and out of power group absorb their own law-making activity.

#### **7. Punish consolidating for the political corruption**

We must special prosecutor, reveal the fact of all the political doubt and punish a person related without any exception, so remove any doubt or rumor remained.

#### **8. Opening to the public for the politician property**

We must perform property opening of all the political servant including a law-maker

#### **9. Separation between the political logic and the economic logic**

Attaining such economic democratization as economic autonomy and independence, Economic logic didn't have to dominate by political logic. Thereby, it is impossible that politic promotes politicalization of economic, economics seduce political corruption

#### **10. Revitalization of civil movement**

We must remember "the common cause" which was a citizen movement to increase the morality for politicians in the early 1970s in the U.S. As a common goal was not achieved by corruption of political administration system, the citizen form a interest group, exercise pressure to them and then they got what they want. This will produce an excellent lesson to us.

### **IV. Conclusion**

Political development have become most important and urgent issue in the course of the state development. Whatever politicians are not responsible for the rampant corruption in our society, the politicians must have obligation removing the corruption. Therefore, it is needless to say that the morality of politician is stronger than that of other general servants. Now it is time for our politician to be needed brilliant difficulty.