

Letters to the Editor.

Sir,

I was up at uni with a leader of one of the African countries about to receive more of our aid when we can least afford it. He said to me recently: 'It's absolutely wonderful! Your lot came around and gave us billions, now the Chinks are coming with their billions, just when you're going bust. Very timely. God must be an African, not an Englishman, as you fellows used to say. I've got all the arms I need to promote democracy, so I think I'll spend the Chinese money on a world-class library or an opera house or even a hospital. What do you think?' Of course I promoted the idea of the hospital - it would be a first, after all.

I was also up at uni with the leader of the rebels so, if regime change happens, I'm well placed to keep you all informed of the next round of purchases.

Yours Faithfully, Avery Readman, St. Mawes.

Sir,

I have been trying to get a mental grip on our current situation, politically speaking. The curious thing is why do we continually elect such duffers? Are we thick? It seems we need a new system of democracy - one that will enable us to get rid of incompetent governments and not have to put up with them messing up the country for several years at a stretch. Do we need a more politically active military? Should we invite MI5 and MI6 and the SAS to run things? Should we pick names of citizens out of a hat and then ask them to run the country (new kitchens and bathrooms included as an incentive) - one regrets to say that the level of competence and experience would probably be more than under the present system. Should we ask an aging African statesman to have a go, or an American politician's wife, or even a European? When you think about it, almost anything would be better than what we have now. Can someone please set up a think-tank to think about this? Heaven knows it would be doing Joe Public a right favour.

Yours Faithfully, Greg Gould, Twickenham.

Sir,

Can you explain to me why our government can tax everything in sight to do with the man in the street but not put a 'Robin Hood' tax on financial transactions?

Yours faithfully, Jim Bateson, Skegness.

