Selections from
\textbf{A Political Rake’s Progress}
By John Hyde

\textbf{Constituents}
\begin{itemize}
\item Make yourself seen by knocking every door.
\item Reject that offer of a paramour.
\item Well, press their interests in the Parliament
\item And never ever cross the folk you represent.
\item For so say they: so says your party too.
\item Both claim your re-election’s really up to you.
\item And so my Leader Great and Glorious
\item Whose love of numbers was notorious,
\item Who urged us to speak and vote our party’s call
\item Not thinking for the nation or ourselves at all,
\item Allowed us modest measures of dissent
\item When pressed by citizens we represent.
\end{itemize}

Most folk of decency and common sense,
Would disregard political pretence.
The few who blustered with a prejudice,
Demanded favour for their avarice
Or begged to jump an immigration queue
Had little ken how little I could do.
The better Ministers refused, I’m sure,
To basely undermine the rule of law.
Their minions drafted letters to explain
My fervent pleading was alas in vain,
But did that ploy allay the discontent
Or fool the folk I claimed to represent.

\textbf{Utopians}
\begin{itemize}
\item \textit{Penned while reading Whittaker Chambers’ Witness}
\item There is a class of men, who being sure
\item They know what is to know of life’s true way,
\item Pronounce, that others follow and obey.
\item Who does not want less poverty, less war
\item More liberty, a life beyond life’s shore?
\item Respect the men who join those bold crusades
\item And forfeit life upon the barricades
\item Of gallant hopes of bliss from better law.
\item But do not praise them, nor their cause.
\item Of gulag, guillotine and shot beware.
\item Beware a Stalin or a Robespierre.
\item Of plans to force a better world give pause.
\item Coerced Utopias deny men’s liberty
\item And turn once selfless zeal to tyranny.
\end{itemize}

\textbf{The Greens}
\begin{itemize}
\item The false alarm’s an art of politics
\item Where most hobgoblins are but tricks
\item To keep us in such dire alarm
\item We vote for promises to stop their harm.
\item They say we’ll boil. They said we’d freeze.
\item From Anti-Christ to loss of trees
\item Apocalypse has been in calm remand,
\item But Greens assure us crisis is at hand.
\end{itemize}

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\textit{A Political Rakes’ Progress} is available
\textit{from Access Press, ph: (08) 9379 3188}