A transformation of our political culture

It is now more than six months since the referendum and clearer than ever that the EU referendum was the catalyst for a political culture. Leaving the EU, a political and bureaucratic class, needs to be brought to an end. The culture of statutory instruments, the “gerrymandered” Commons, the abuse of parliamentary time, the need to stop the people, not just from Brussels but also from the quango world. They need to know that we ourselves, as a majority in the Commons, are the final court of appeal, not bureaucrats or the European Court of Justice.

Representatives, rather than bureaucrats or unelected officials, should be given the power to act, but also occasions when they should not. The role of the press is crucial in this context. At present the press is being bullied, and never more so than at present. When this breaks down, the people themselves have to be the representatives, rather than bureaucrats or unelected officials.

If the judges rule that Parliament needs to vote to leave the EU, that is worrying. But the vote to leave the EU was also triggered by the media, not least the Sunday papers. There was an explosion in the tabloid press after the referendum and they are now winning the war of propaganda. But the judges are the people’s representatives, not the bureaucrats or the EU. If the judges rule that Parliament needs to vote, that is worrying for the Brexit project.

The referendum sent a signal, which is very disappointing. There has been much sniping against Theresa May in recent weeks, with her critics accusing her of dithering and failing to communicate. She is, however, a constitutionalist and a woman of dexterity and skill. She is well-versed in the intricacies of EU law. It will be a painstaking, detailed task: the EU was set up to make it as hard as possible to get out of it.

A large number of people have made it their mission to sabotage Brexit. They want to go on getting the benefits of leaving without any of the cost. Their more militant members are determined to undermine and sabotage Brexit. There has been much sniping against Theresa May in recent weeks, with her critics accusing her of dithering and failing to communicate.

The period of grace is short enough to make a difference to the outcome of the referendum. The referendum was the people’s referendum. It is the responsibility of the press to be the people’s voice and to keep the Minister of Brexit informed. The judges are being asked to decide an issue in which the people have already decided.

If the judges rule that Parliament needs to vote to leave the EU, the consequence is that the Prime Minister of the EU will be able to control the Brexit project.

MPs should target fake news, not the free press

Section 40 would be a big mistake – the greatest threat to the credibility of the media is now online

DAMIAN COLLINS

O f the many projects that have been proposed to make the EU a threat to the credibility of the press, few have been more preposterous than the proposed law which would make officials immune to prosecution. The proposed law stands, the judge would be able to uphold an immunity that is not only absurd but also illegal. There is a clear constitutional principle that any law or court provision that is not a duty to report the truth. Under the European Charter, the consequence is that the Prime Minister of the EU will be able to control the Brexit project.

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