

## Correspondence from Mr John O Sullivan

From: Mary o'Sullivan  
To: "noreen.banim@oireachtas.ie" <noreen.banim@oireachtas.ie>  
Date: 24/03/2016 22:07  
Subject: A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

Dear Ms. Banim,

Please pass this e-mail on to the committee for Dail Reform

### A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

We're disappointed and vexed and frustrated. We have cast our votes in the expectation of having a democratically elected government to steer the ship of state in these uncertain times when political and economic imponderables in Britain, Europe and further afield threaten disruption. The candidates who assured us on the doorstep and on T.V. that they had the interests of the nation at heart seem now, post- election, cynically to put Party before Country.

I'm not writing just to indulge in the unending moan or to tell readers what they already know. In the Dail we need to see a display of statesmanship, even (dare I say it) patriotism, given the year that's in it; not a display of cutehoorism for petty advantage.

I want to switch to positive, even optimistic mode and propose a solution to the present political impasse.

It is believed that a problem may sometimes, after due rumination , be seen as an opportunity in disguise . Let's consider the current political stalemate as a catalyst for radical political reform, a golden opportunity to introduce a more democratic system with all T.D.s ( party or independent ) taking part in government,with accountability for representatives (no party whips) and stability of government.

The idea is not mine but was advanced in a book entitled ' Evolution to Democracy' written by an Englishman, 'John Creasey' over forty years ago. I will quote his seven basic proposals, (because editors value their space and readers value their time.)

1. A fixed term for each Parliament ( say four years ) with a clearly - specified day for all General Elections; thus allowing the fullest opportunities for stable government.
2. General Elections to be fought ( as now ) on party lines, with each party working to win the largest share of the popular vote for its own policies- but with candidates and electors assured that every vote will count, in the actual composition of the new Government.
3. The leader of the party with most votes in the country to become Prime Minister.
4. The Prime Minister to appoint ( a ) his Cabinet and ( b ) his junior ministers from all the parties in direct proportion to each party's share of the total vote.
5. Bills for debate to be drawn from each of the parties,in those same proportions.
6. No Bill before the House to be abandoned on grounds of time; unfinished parliamentary business to be carried over to the next session.
7. The Party Whip system to be abolished and every Bill submitted to a free vote of the House.

John O' Sullivan