

## INFLUENCE

“You sitting here with \$100 meal and talking about the problems of the poor. Does that make you feel guilty in any way?”

“I guess I’d feel more guilty if I left them all to go to waste. It’s not as if I’m buying it for myself. This is all part of the process. This is how we exercise influence in the present system. I can’t help it if I’m trying to convince somebody who wants to believe that I’m serious. My seriousness is based on the fact that my people want to spend money to make some thing happen. If we don’t spend money nothings going to change. There’s a connected understanding here. And I just want everyone to understand it. That’s all part of our growth. We’re doing all this for a reason. Inevitably, it will make peoples lives better. That kind of commitment is only like the beginning of some thing greater. That is why we’re all working together. We’re basically committed to a common name. And that kind of thinking helps move things along in our lives.

“When I wake up tomorrow, I want the world to be better than when I left it. I’m not staying home on my own. I’m doing some thing about the situation. I’m inspiring others. And this movement for a change has its own motivation. This is only the beginning of something greater if we don’t get things started everything’s gonna stay as it was. I can hardly go along with that perspective. I see enough challenges around me. Children and families need programs to help with their development. I’m there to make those things happen. I can’t help the fact that this all occurs in a different world and they live in. I admit that this is the problem. But I’m not gonna change that without basic solutions. If we eliminate these programs that will make people more isolated. They will find it even more difficult to change the overall situation. For what it’s worth, you have to start somewhere. We’re building upon that idea. This adds to our sense of teamwork.”

“I’m not doing this alone. I have others involved. Recognizing the social implications of our actions. It adds to the overall sense of commitment. We are seeing greater and greater achievements through a few small actions. What would you have me do? Should I leave the dinner on this plate.? I’m not making things worse and making them better. I’m creating evidence for a new situation. That gives me confidence. It also enhances the efforts of others. I don’t think that I should feel guilty about my accomplishments. I’ve worked hard to get to where I am. I don’t want to look forward backwards. I will look forwards. I want to look at possibilities. I am part of this process I’m engaging as if its more than it is. I don’t think that I’m endorsing the system at all.”

“I’m not trying to make people feel as if they have a good conscience. It’s not about attitude. It’s about results. And these results help move things forward. Do you think that is possible that were in a moment of more profound social activism. Change doesn’t have to stop at a few meager concessions. Instead, there is a foundation to ask for greater demands. This doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t find delight in these efforts. But this is hardly sufficient. We’re only putting a Band-Aid on a problem. And that problem needs to be solved once and for all. If we’re actually talking about peoples lives, empowerment needs to occur immediately. In this kind of change demands a long range program.”

“These minor advances are obscuring and greater movement. I can’t keep endorsing the

same ideology. It's not about these little emotions. It's not about feeling good. It's diagnosing the actual source of the disease and breaking it down once and for all. We're not assuming that the system can be cured."

"This system is endangering the lives of people. Therefore, it is essential that would be brought down. Any efforts to maintain the present situation only aggravate any of the problems that you observe. In fact, this analysis provides the beginning for more long lasting change. And we need to admit to these possibilities. If we're talking about creating new languages or new ways of seeing, they need to highlight alternative processes."

"We can't go on seeing things how they've been seeing in the past. We can console ourselves with the minor developments leading to a long lasting change. It's that simple. We can't see it any other way. This is a part of our activism. If it means moving things along, so be it. This is all part of a greater evolution. If we wait, we only prevent the process from occurring. It's not about you. It's not about your dinner. It's not about your beliefs. It's about the actual implementation of a program. It's about achieving results. That's why we're working together. We're pushing things along."

"We're assuming an act of war four on going awareness. You're trying to reassure people who don't think that change is possible. You're trying to convince them that their efforts are actually successful. There are other ones who are standing in the way of vibrant development. They still find ways to reward themselves under the present system. That's why their offerings are so measly. They have to create an ongoing cut for themselves and their allies."

"You can try to ignore what's going on. You can close your eyes to this kind of corruption but it continues and every kind of interaction. That's how it is all laid out. It is corrupt. You follow the money. And there's money to be made off of money. There's hush money."

"In a sense that's what you're accepting."

"That's ridiculous! I am making people think about the problem. I am talking about it. I'm making it public."

"But you're not publicizing it in a way that results in an upheaval of the system. You're giving it a reason to exist. You are taking the issues that are important to you, and you're reducing them to a limited transformation of the system. Ultimately, this becomes a justification for its existence. And this strategy does not focus on the source of the problems. It only adds to them. You have the information to blow the system out of the water. And you're sitting on your hands. You're not enriching your demands. You are limiting their application.. And that only demonstrates the lack in capacity."

"I don't think you understand. I'm working with people who have a limited ability to recognize the problems. I'm lucky to get what I do. And these tiny victories make a difference to people. You need to bring some kind of realism to your observations. If you really believe that change can occur for individual effort, you need to get involved. It's one thing to criticize from the outside."

"I don't see my criticism that's coming from the outside. In my own way, I'm part of a community. And I can contribute to it actively. I consider these contributions as the beginning of further enlightenment. Over time, as social fabric can expand. I can create a greater return. I am involved in reinforcing this kind of cohesiveness. That's why we're talking. We're trying to

figure out how we can influence others how to take a more active role and change. The key element here is that language that is serving action. Any individual action can then be linked up to other kinds of programs. This can be a step the overall efforts. I situate myself in the middle of this process. I'm not doing it on the sidelines I'm working from within. This becomes something greater in itself. It is important to talk about our feelings. We can adjust this language to create different approaches to social interaction. This becomes the building blocks for something more involved. We are no longer watching from the outside. We are engaging things from within."

"You don't really understand what I'm doing. My life is good. I'm not involved in taking politicians on junkets. I set clear boundaries for myself in my operations. Then makes me successful what I do. I try not to personalize things. It couldn't be simpler."