

GREAT START

What do we look for?

by Liesl Garner

And where do we go from here?
On the surface, there are policies
and platforms, procedures and protocols.
There are buzzwords and bandwagons;
battle lines are drawn. And somewhere
beneath the banners are the beating hearts
of people who want a leader – who want
someone to turn to – someone with a heart
and a smile, a listening ear, a willingness
to work next to us, elbow to elbow, shoulder
to shoulder. We want someone who will dream
with us, who will think big and bold with us;
who wants our futures to be as bright as we hope
and plan them to be – who sees a roadmap
to success – who sees the potholes and detours,
yet also sees the adventure of a road trip,
of “you buy the food and I’ll buy the gas
and let’s see what’s out there.” Who can enjoy
the journey – who can be practical and precise,
yet has a touch of whimsy, because before
we can work as hard as we need to
to get where we want to be – we need to be inspired.
We need to be told what’s around that corner,
what’s around that bend or over that mountain,
what treasures are out there that we can bring
home with us – because this *is* our home.
This is our living room – these are our kids
and our flower gardens. Will you share our table,
our concerns? And where do we go from here?

GREAT END

“As soon as public service ceases to be the chief business of the citizens, and they would rather serve with their money than with their persons, the State is not far from its fall.” Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (1762), 3.15, TR G.D.H. Cole

Let us be actively *engaged* with this campaign. Let us be *informed* about the politics around us. Let’s be a part of the process – with our persons, our time, our money and our votes!