

All in all it's a good time for homophobes in Scotland at the moment. Not only did the queen give Brian Souter a knighthood but then the Scottish Government invited Cecil Samuelson to address Holyrood's 'Time for Reflection.'

If you've been paying any attention at all, you will know my views on the whole royal family, honours system malarkey. So far no-one has seen fit to offer me any reward for my great works, but that might just be because they realise I have no desire to be a lady or a dame, except perhaps in pantomime.

I do take an interest in these things, though. Nominations to such honours come from politicians; I would be very surprised if the queen had heard of Mr Souter and his buses. It also seems unlikely that David Cameron is a fan of Stagecoach or minor Scottish celebrities (even if he also opposed the repeal of section 28 about which more later). No - it is much more likely that our own dear Alex, whose party was the recipient of a recent £500k donation from said knight, put his name forward.

How fortunate Mr Souter has been recently. His elevation follows the SNP dropping their previous manifesto commitment to bus re-regulation. Re-introducing proper regulation of the bus services would help every single one of us, but reduce Mr Souter and his sister's vast fortunes. For us then to be grateful for his philanthropy with a tiny part of his wealth seems a tad Victorian to me. Sadly, we still seem to have a system that allows the wealthy to become even wealthier at the expense of the poor (us) and then expecting us to be grateful for the crumbs they toss us.

However, the £500k given to the SNP for the election was only half the amount Mr Souter donated to the campaign to retain section 28. This you may recall was controversial legislation which prohibited local authorities and schools from 'promoting'

homosexuality. Although there were few prosecutions made under the act, it did lead to the closure of some support groups for LGBT youngsters in schools and colleges. Sense prevailed and the legislation was repealed. A million quid down the drain.

And Cecil Samuelson? He was given the honour last week of being asked to address the Scottish Parliament's 'Time for Reflection.' The guidelines on the parliament website refer only to the content of the four-minute speech and not to the selection of the speaker. The guidelines state that the speech should reflect the practice of the faith community to which the speaker belongs, but also be consistent with the principle of equal opportunities for all. He is the president of the Brigham Young University, a Mormon owned educational establishment that believes homosexual behavior violates their 'Honor Code.'

His speech was suitably non-controversial and so his presence would have gone all but unnoticed had it not been for Patrick Harvie MSP, who appears to be the only MSP performing the role of opposition in government at the moment. And even then he was told off by the presiding officer for being rude to their guest.

All this in the same week that the Church of Scotland has seen the actual and threatened break away of congregations over the appointment of gay ministers. I was heartened that the General Assembly voted in favour of such appointments, but to be honest not surprised that some members have reacted in this way.

So what hope is there for the only gay in the glen? Well, you will certainly not be alone that is for sure. But don't for a minute think that you live in a supportive community. Scotland is an awful long way away from that.