

# TheNews

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## Demise of the CCP

The Competition Commission of Pakistan is an institution that is supposed to protect the interests of 90 per cent of the population of this country from being exploited by the various business groups. Can political parties in the National Assembly and the Senate explain their silence on this vital issue of public importance? Are our elected representatives not required to protect the consumers from being overcharged by cartels and monopolies? The unfortunate sad reality is that except for Shaukat Tarin, who stood up to protect the CCP from being exterminated, no other politician across the divide has made an attempt to provide some sort of protection to consumers. Where are the PPP, the PML-N, the PML-Q, the MQM, the JUI, the JI, the ANP and others? How do they explain their criminal silence on this vital issue? It seems that the ruling political elite and the establishment are interested more in protecting the cartels, of which they are beneficiaries, than the common man of this country. Where is the PPP with its claim of roti, kapra aur makan? Or the PML-N with its rhetoric of standing up for the people? And the MQM which never tires of claiming to represent the 'lower-middle-class'? The ANP, a party with a 'socialist' ideology, is also silent on this issue. As for the religious parties, the less said the better, for they have lost all credibility.

The government's decision to allow the ordinance to lapse and the opposition's silence give credence to charges that our bureaucracy and political elite no longer have a stake in this country, for all of them have shifted their assets to foreign countries. But do they realise that the anger, frustration and sense of deprivation may unleash a ferocious backlash which will have very grave repercussions for this country? The Competition Commission of Pakistan was a weak relief valve in a system dominated by hoarders, black marketers, opportunists and men whose sole aim is to make quick bucks and then shift their wealth to foreign bank accounts.

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