

Nostalgia is not the enemy of progress

We who fondly remember the successes of days gone by and pine for their return are often criticized for being old fogies and nostalgia pushers by younger Americans who seem to think that history started with their birth. We're also criticized by the Left that seems on a not-so-secret mission to completely erase the past. Sociologists will tell us to calm down, that this is normal, especially among the young that think that every one of their ideas should be heralded as a monumental epiphany!

And while I'm willing to concede that reality, I am not willing to accept it as a net positive for those of us who bear the battle scars of long lives lived in real time not in nostalgic reveries. I am also not willing to give the Left a pass for their attempt to completely re-write history and subvert the many important lessons learned by our fellow citizens over the years just because it would make their attempt to create a new world order for America, easier. The Progressives are trying to paint us as the 'expendables' of society that is when they're not calling us 'deplorables' or 'racism deniers' or some such ridiculous names. I'm convinced that they view those of us who live in the present but still possess excellent memories of past events as dangerous - subversives to the new Progressive creed. They see us as nostalgia addicts, living in an endless loop of Twilight Zone episodes or sitting around the living rooms of America's assisted living centers bingeing out on Lawrence Welk Show reruns.

It's demeaning to be cast aside and ridiculed for having reasonably good (and accurate I might add) memories. But it's not unexpected. It is precisely what we've come to expect from ideologues that spend most of their lives living in their heads, playing out 'what if' scenarios of how they would run the new and improved USA if in power. I'm more than willing to indulge them their fantasies IF it's done in the spirit of theorizing and debate, but I draw the line at Progressive authoritarianism as an acceptable means to force our complicity.

Good memories make for sound facts-based discussions.

The Left keeps harping about the Right's penchant for 'misinformation' and Conservatives use of that pesky document - the Constitution - as a Praetorian guard against all manner of new revolutionary ideas (ideas *they* consider revolutionary that is) that would turn our systemically racist, oppressive and inequitable country into one where no American wants for anything (because all wealth is regulated and distributed by the government) and where every American surrenders his right to dissent for the sake of security. Let's use our imagination and put aside the lessons of history for a moment. Here's how the new Progressive America would look if they had the power...

-- America's borders would be opened, allowing for the free flow of immigrants fleeing repressive South American regimes. Once here they would be given 'root cause pay' and 'equity subsidies' (cash) for making the long arduous journey from their home countries. After a brief period they would be allowed to vote in local, state and national elections. They would be given preference for available jobs according to a formula devised by the new U.S. Department of Equity Affairs (points for gender, sexual orientation, country of origin and race).

-- Elections would be federalized and states' rights would be subordinated for *the greater good* of the country thereby ceding power to the Executive Branch or a Democrat-run legislative committee that would 'monitor' and 'regulate' all elections which would be open to all residents from age 16 on up.

-- Healthcare mandates and screening would be implemented that would require all citizens to hold an 'IP'(immunization passport) in either subcutaneous microchip form or as a physical hard copy document which must be presented upon request by any Federal Government authority.

-- Federalized education would take the place of local school board/community authority and no exemptions for home-schooling or charter schools would be allowed. Curricula would be developed by the U.S. Dept. of Re-education and would include a comprehensive syllabus of 'right-sized history' that revealed America's past oppressive attempts to keep the country's minorities in a state of perennial poverty. It would include CRT and extensive diversity training which would replace civics as a mandatory subject for graduation.

-- A broad all-encompassing package of new 'socially-equitable' subsidies would be developed and offered to those citizens 'in need.' No means testing would be required. However, minorities, the LGBT/transgender community and native Americans would be singled out for special 'reparations' for past discriminatory practices. The 'right to stay home' would replace the 'right to work' as the new organized labor slogan and unemployment benefits would now be made available to all who've never worked at a job before.

-- The Federal Government would now control how local district attorneys choose to prosecute the newly-downgraded *crimes of social necessity* (burglary, car-jacking, home invasion and trespass). The country's prison system would become totally federalized and *reimagined* to include building thousands of new adjunct properties devoted solely to social rehabilitation and 'seamless re-entry' into society. Counseling would take the place of parole and all criminal records for offenders who have committed low-level crimes below murder and rape would be expunged after 18 months and their right to vote returned to them. The one exception would be white collar criminals. All such offenders would be denied early release for good behavior and must undergo a lifelong sentence of community service after they have served their sentences in a maximum security prison.

-- All police forces (local and state) would now be under the direction of the U.S. Department of Justice and be subject to a strict code of conduct and twice-yearly reviews by a 'justice equity panel' comprised of six members of the Black and Hispanic community, one member for native Americans, one for Pacific Islanders, one from the LGBT community and one from the White community. The new federalized police force would not be allowed to carry firearms but would be required to wear 'Go Pro' cameras at all times.

-- America's energy production would now be based on a complex combination of wind, solar and to a lesser extent, fossil fuels. Electric cars would be the only new vehicles allowed to be manufactured and an environment surcharge would be levied on each owner of gasoline-powered vehicles based on a formula of the age of the vehicles, their engine displacements and their annual miles driven. Each owner would be required to fill out an annual mileage report and include it with their tax returns to the IRS. Electric vehicle owners would be given special 'EVO' (electric vehicle only) lanes on state highways and preference for specific day/time use of the highways they traveled.

-- Our homes would undergo a yearly inspection for environmental standards infractions by the new U.S. Department of Home Preparedness corps of home inspectors. Citizens found in repeated violation of new federal standards could be subject to property seizure by the government.

-- A comprehensive set of new *socially sensitive speech* regulations would be enacted by Presidential Executive Order. They would include new definitions for what constitutes socially-acceptable speech and new special harsh penalties for any speech that was deemed as critical of the homosexual and transgender community and organizations like the NAACP, The Southern Poverty Law Center, the ACLU, Antifa, Black Lives Matter and, of course, all Democrat lawmakers.

-- All citizens would be required to identify their affiliation with a political party or ideology on their tax returns and this information would become part of an inter-agency shared database. All who would refuse to indicate such affiliation would be subject to an automatic yearly IRS audit until such time as they agreed to state their affiliation.

Before you say the foregoing are 'way over the top' and could never happen in America, do yourself a favor. Look back at the past year and review the measures that have been taken to "protect the public" - ostensibly from the scourge of the Coronavirus pandemic. Think about how the Left has repeatedly demonized Conservatives and has tried to federalize our elections; averted their eyes from our porous border; exerted control over our workplace through Draconian vaccination mandates and their continued attempts to marginalize the Right's right to a fair and objective review of the events of January 6, 2021 in a one-sided Congressional committee.

We have seen this *film* before. Martin Niemoeller, a theologian and Lutheran pastor who lived in Nazi-run Germany in the 1930s and who was imprisoned in Sachsenhausen and Dachau concentration camps for seven years saw it for himself and wrote about it in a poem in 1946: "First they came for the Communists, and I did not speak out because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak for me."

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