

Dissecting the Democrats - Part II

Last week I downloaded the Democrats' 2020 Party Platform which was approved right after their convention. I've managed to plow through about fifty pages of it as of this writing, and let me say that this is not a document for the faint of heart nor is it for conservatives with blood pressure issues. It is, however, a blueprint that clearly describes where this now very radical party wants to take our country should it win the Presidency in less than two weeks.

Let me say at this point that I don't think they're going to win. This is more than just a gut feeling on my part but it is also a gut feeling. That feeling stems from my most recent voting experience while standing in a long line with other people the first day of early voting at the Tijeras City Hall polling place. I got there a half-hour before the polls opened and thought back to what the line was like in 2016. I figured that there would be about ten people or so waiting there before me. Rounding the corner to the parking lot I saw that the parking lot was full and when I did find a place 100 or so feet away from the entrance I was surprised to see 60-70 people snaked all the way up the hill, parallel with the building.

Taking my place as the last man I was soon joined within a few minutes by another dozen or so people. Directly in front of me was a man and his wife. Both were my age and 'maskless' as was I. The man turned round and said, "Good to see another sensible person," pointing to his bare face. We struck up a conversation and it was plain that they both were conservatives and were there to mark their ballot for Trump. At this point, let me say that I am not opposed to wearing a mask when I'm indoors with people around me. It's just outdoors that I object to them. The science is not absolutely conclusive on the real benefits of wearing them, that's all. We spent the next 55 minutes talking about the state of our country and how much we needed to stand up for our liberties and reject the off-the-wall notions of the Democratic Party.

We were respectful of the people around us and didn't talk loudly, but we were pointed in our mutual beliefs that we could not sit idly by and let America be driven back to the future into an Obama-like administration. I told him the following story of being up in Santa Fe visiting a fellow conservative friend that I worked with during the Richardson Administration.

Edward and I decided to have coffee at a local café, Tribes. He and I sat outside and our table which was positioned the required distance from other tables. We quickly fell into a conversation about the governor and her massive power grab and the stranglehold that she has imposed on our economy. Then we moved to the recently-concluded Vice-Presidential debate. I remember saying that what interested me most was the body language displayed by Kamala Harris as she parried with VP Mike Pence. Her constant contrived smile was what stayed with me while Pence' serious facial expressions told me more than their words ever could.

It was at this point that I noticed a fellow diner leaning in to our conversation. The man was masked, sitting alone, outdoors, and working on his laptop. He abruptly turned to me and said something to the effect that, "it was racist of me to talk about a Black woman that way and that wasn't it typical of the Republicans to criticize women." Now, I don't usually take this kind of bait, but the man was obviously looking for a confrontation, so I was going to oblige him. I turned to face him so he could see the gold 'NRA' letters of my baseball cap and said, "Well, aren't you such a sweet man to want to help me correct my misogyny and call me a racist. It's people like you that make Santa Fe the 'City Different'. You are what gives the Left a bad name." I then turned back to Edward and continued my conversation with him and the man went back to his laptop and began tapping angrily on the keys - probably reporting me to the Santa Fe thought police.

I mention this because these types of confrontations are happening all over our country - in public places and in private ones - and it's up to each one of us to decide how far we want to go in answering people like my guy at Tribes. At this point, I have to say, 'please be careful how you respond, because a goodly number of these partisans are or could become pretty unhinged.'

I'm not saying you could be attacked like drivers in a road rage situation but you could get something thrown at you or even be thrown out of a restaurant for being an innocent party - especially one wearing an NRA or MAGA hat in Santa Fe.

Back to my voter line in Tijeras.

The line grew quickly and had doubled by the time we got to the building entrance. Things were moving and people were calm. When we entered the building's foyer, I put on my mask but my conversation partners in front of me continued to be maskless. They were then approached by a voting official who offered them masks. They politely refused and he went on his way down the line. No one said anything to them after that. I, on the other hand had to pull mine down to breathe a little better and another official came up to me and said, "Please pull your mask up." Being the smart aleck I am, I said, "I'll pull mine up if you'll pull yours down." He then got a puzzled look on his face and I quickly added, "No problem, just kidding," and pulled mine back up. I tell you this to illustrate what could happen to you if you wander off the mask reservation at a polling place.

The ballot this year has the national races, the state races and judgeships on it along with a whole host of budget referenda and a few New Mexico Constitutional amendment questions. I voted for the judges that I knew or had heard about but agonized a bit over the budget-related yes or no questions. Since I'm not a fan of changing our state's Constitution, I voted 'no' on those items. It took me about ten minutes, and afterwards it felt good to have done my duty. I would encourage all of you who haven't voted to please do so before November 3rd.

I heard that while Democrats have been sending in absentee ballots at a higher than usual rate here Republicans voting in person have outnumbered the Dems' mail-in ballots. And THAT'S encouraging. I'm told that we could see an 8% increase in overall voting this election, up from the 62% we experienced in 2016. Please do your part to make that happen.

Now to dissecting the Democrats' political manifesto...

In a previous article I spoke about peeling back the Democrats' 'onion' that dealt with the whole issue of so-called *reproductive rights*. I think it's worth repeating that before we move on to other issues. "Democrats are committed to protecting and advancing reproductive health, rights, and justice. We believe unequivocally, like the majority of Americans, that every woman should be able to access high-quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion. We will repeal the Title X domestic gag rule and restore federal funding for Planned Parenthood, which provides vital preventive and reproductive health care for millions of people, especially low-income people, and people of color, and LGBTQ+ people, including in underserved areas. Democrats oppose and will fight to overturn federal and state laws that create barriers to reproductive health and rights. We will repeal the Hyde Amendment, and protect and codify the right to reproductive freedom. We condemn acts of violence, harassment, and intimidation of reproductive health providers, patients, and staff.

We will address the discrimination and barriers that inhibit meaningful access to reproductive health care services, including those based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, income, disability, geography, and other factors. Democrats oppose restrictions on medication abortion care that are inconsistent with the most recent medical and scientific evidence and that do not protect public health.

We recognize that quality, affordable comprehensive health care; medically accurate, LGBTQ+ inclusive, age-appropriate sex education; and the full range of family planning services are all essential to ensuring that people can decide if, when, and how to start a family. We are proud to be the party of the Affordable Care Act, which prohibits discrimination in health care on the basis of sex and requires insurers to cover prescription contraceptives at no cost.

These efforts have significantly reduced teen and unintended pregnancies by making it easier to decide whether, when, and how to have a child. We believe that a person's health should always come first. Democrats will protect the rights of all people to make personal health care decisions, and will reject the Trump Administration's use of broad exemptions to allow medical providers, employers, and others to discriminate."

You'll notice that nowhere in those paragraphs are the rights of the unborn spoken of. Why? Because the Democrats don't believe that the unborn HAVE any rights and that goes for the fathers of unborn children as well. While they say that they believe that a person's health always comes first, that doesn't apply to the helpless fetus that lives precariously inside the mother, depending on her for the very life that grows day by day. It will always amaze me that the Democrats can justify the taking of those innocent lives without due process while at the same time object to the death penalty for a convicted murderer. The hypocrisy is astounding.

On the economy, the Dems and ourselves are not too far apart except that they espouse (as does Joe Biden) a 'destroy the village in order to save it' mentality. This is especially true of their advocacy for further lockdowns which have not been proven to be a surefire solution to the Coronavirus' spread. More and more medical experts are seriously questioning the wisdom of that approach to stop or slow the pandemic. The Democrats are all-in when it comes to more national investment in our healthcare infrastructure as a pre-requisite for a long-term re-opening of the economy. To many of us who seek smaller government and less government control of our healthcare system, this is a call to arms.

In their plan, Democrats stress their support for 'the worker' but insist on loading up small businesses that employ workers with more expenses. They state, "We will reform the current unemployment insurance system to enable more workers to remain attached to their jobs, including by promoting payroll support and work-sharing programs with generous rates of wage replacement and requirements that employers maintain workers' benefits. For those workers who do lose their jobs, we will expand the unemployment insurance system to cover more workers, including independent contractors and gig, part-time, and tipped workers; make sure platform companies and companies that misclassify employees as contractors pay in to support the system like other employers do; and raise wage replacement rates, which are far too low in many states."

This is typical for Democrats who really don't understand the enormous challenges that small businesses face. They want to pile on more regulations and more costs to a sector that employs over 50% of America's total workforce. In addition, they want to increase social programs, adding to the burden. They say, "We will expand, not cut, nutrition assistance and food security programs that millions of Americans are relying on in this crisis"

The Dems desperately want to bail out failing Blue state governments, too. "We urgently need to support state and local governments, which are suffering severe budget shortfalls due to declines in tax revenues while being asked to shoulder the burden of COVID-related services and rising unemployment. State and local budget cuts translate quickly into lost jobs in education, health care, and social services—all fields where we need to be adding jobs to meet the needs of the American people. Democrats will extend significant aid to state and local governments, school districts, and public and nonprofit colleges and universities, including HBCUs and MSIs, to address these budget shortfalls and secure jobs. We will condition state and federal aid on maintaining and expanding public-sector employment, including provisions to protect workers' rights."

'Workers' rights' include eliminating right to work laws which the Dems view as anti-labor, ignoring the fact that the states seeing explosive growth are those that give workers flexibility and real workers' choice - to join or not join a labor union.

The Democrats see the pandemic as a Trojan Horse and the ideal vehicle to realize their plans for institutionalizing socialism in the country.

One example is housing. From their manifesto they say, "The United States is facing an unprecedented housing crisis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and President Trump's recession, with millions of families at risk of being evicted. We support state and local measures to freeze rent increases, evictions, utility shutoffs, and late fees for rent, to prevent families from becoming homeless and making the pandemic even worse."

What is worrisome is that THAT stop gap measure could and probably would become permanent.

The Dems routinely exhibit total ignorance of the workings of the free market system and want to 'level the playing field' while dealing a crippling blow to the millions of ordinary citizens who have discovered the stock market and increasing their nest eggs. They state, "We will impose rigorous oversight on big corporations seeking financial assistance to weather the pandemic and President Trump's recession, to ensure that federal dollars support keeping workers on payroll, not enriching CEOs or shareholders. Taxpayer money should not be used to pay out dividends, fund stock buybacks, or give raises to executives."

Their ignorance of the facts is astounding. They say that the American economy is not working for the American people and conveniently forget the pre-Covid unemployment rates that made us the envy of the industrialized world with record-low unemployment for Blacks, Hispanics and women.

The Dems' memory is highly questionable on other subjects, too. One wonders where they've been these last four years. From their plan they say, "Unlike President Trump, we will stand up to efforts from China and other state actors to steal America's intellectual property and will demand China and other countries cease and desist from conducting cyber-espionage against our companies."

And their proposed path forward will not encourage more U.S. companies to re-invest in the USA from overseas operations. Here's what they say about that, "We will eliminate President Trump's tax and trade policies that encourage big corporations to ship jobs overseas and evade paying their fair share of taxes." They want to raise corporate taxes and put our exporters in a financial vise under the guise of 'protecting domestic jobs'. President Trump has the right idea - use the carrot of incentives, not the stick of higher taxes, but that has never been the choice of committed Liberals.

On healthcare, the Dems are for socialized medicine. There's no other way to say it, honestly. By taking an industry that accounts for a fifth of our total economy and turning not only the insurance aspect of it but also healthcare delivery, into a government-run enterprise they fail to see how taking away patients' rights to choose and replacing them with the government's sole right to choose is going to give us a better healthcare system! You need to read pages 28-34 of the platform to see what the Dems are after - top down, government-run management of Americans' health. Do we all remember, "If you like your doctor you can keep him and if you like your health plan you can keep it and the average family will save \$1500/year under Obamacare?" I rest my case.

For decades, the Democrats have portrayed themselves as THE party of the underprivileged minorities in America. In fact, they have done precious little to promote a PEOPLE-led movement to address the racial and ethnic inequities that remain in our system... naturally, over time. Their solution is more laws and income redistribution and creating more panels and commissions to discuss our problems. Their solutions are always rooted in more talk and less concrete action that will create better and more opportunities for Americans. They say, "We believe Black lives matter, and will establish a national commission to examine the lasting economic effects of slavery, Jim Crow segregation, and racially discriminatory federal policies on income, wealth, educational, health, and employment outcomes; to pursue truth and promote racial healing; and to study reparations. We must acknowledge that there can be no realization of the American dream without grappling with the lasting effects of slavery, and facing up to the centuries-long campaign of violence, fear, and trauma wrought upon Black Americans.

The extreme gap in household wealth and income between people of color—especially Black Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, and certain Asian American and Pacific Islander communities—and white families is hurting our working class and holding our country back. Democrats are committed to improving economic mobility for people of color. We will fight to tackle intergenerational poverty and close the racial wealth gap."

The truth is that apart from demonstrations and violent protests by groups like 'Black Lives Matter' and misrepresentations of actual racial discord by 'race hustlers' and organizations like the Southern Poverty Law Center, the gap between the races in America is closing not widening. America's minority communities are benefiting from the economic policies of the Trump Administration, and more people of color are seeing the color line *fade* rather than intensify. Granted, we still have a ways to go before we can all say that we judge each other by the content of our character rather than the color of our skins as Martin Luther King, Jr. said, but we are on the right path.

America has always been an exciting and dynamic work in progress, but lasting progress is always made at the people's level with the help of government, not the other way around. In two weeks' time we will be choosing a President, Vice-President, two-thirds of our Senate and a new Congress not to mention hundreds if not thousands of new state legislators around the country. Once again, we Americans will be called to reinforce our national values and stake our claim to America's future. The choices are stark and will have lasting consequences, whichever way we choose. We are charged with exercising wisdom and good judgment and must choose with both our hearts and our heads. To do anything less would be an insult to the millions of patriots that have gone on before us. Vote like your life depends on it because it does.

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