

## A moratorium on stupid?

I really hate quoting avowed Leftist Tom Hanks, but his character in 'Forrest Gump' was spot on when he said, "Stupid is as stupid does" because the statement actually describes America's roller coaster ride down the ideological rabbit hole of moronic behavior.

Let me set the tone for my day and for the above postulation. I was watching Fox News' Dana Perino stammer her way through a morning review of the day's headlines when my ears witnessed perhaps THE most absurd quote of the day in how she referred to the crisis on our southern border. It caught me by surprise because I don't usually associate non sequiturs, malapropisms or downright stupidity with a former spokeswoman for the Bush Administration, but there it was, served up to America's ears at 8:45 am on Tuesday. She said (with great conviction just before a commercial) "Chaos is spinning out of control."

It stopped me in my tracks and I was immediately returned to those thrilling days of yesteryear when 'W' regularly challenged us to his 'lingua Texana' with words like "misunderestimating" not to mention his proclivity for word jumbling with statements like: "I am here to make an announcement that this Thursday, ticket counters and airplanes will fly out of Ronald Reagan Airport." (Washington, DC, October 3, 2001); "You teach a child to read, and he or her will be able to pass a literacy test." (Townsend, TN; February 1, 2001). Then there was, "Too many good docs are getting out of the business. Too many OB-GYNs aren't able to practice their love with women all across this country." (Poplar Bluff, Missouri, September 6, 2004).

These statements, like Perino's, don't prove basal stupidity on their own, but they do give us a window into a person's thought processes. I don't put them in the dangerously toxic category. That I reserve for those that smack of blatant lying. Two such statements could be heard on the same day this week, both in our nation's capital. First, there was DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas' who stated to a Senate committee that "the (southern) border was not open" and the second came from the lips of the mistress of newspeak prestidigitation White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki. She responded to a question about the Biden Administration's decision not to require a Coronavirus vaccine or obtain negative Covid-19 tests from illegal immigrants at our southern border with: (the refugees) "are not intending to stay here for a lengthy period of time."

What a test of credulity for the American people! Did Psaki actually expect that we would believe that Haitians who managed to make it to our southern border after a grueling weeks-long 1,800 mile trek through South America were going to treat being here on the U.S. side of the Rio Grande as a mere stopover? Just long enough to buy some new clothes, a Big Mac and maybe see a movie? Friends, we are living in very strange times, times that are challenging our innate ability to separate fact from fiction. I worry that we are experiencing the *wallpaper effect* on a nationwide scale. When we're peppered with too much information or too many messages we become frozen in place and lose our ability to separate those that are dishonest and dangerous from the sincere, helpful ones.

It seems that the Bidenites are intent on front-loading our frontal lobes with misinformation in the hopes of desensitizing us to the realities of their actions - actions that are putting our country at risk like compromising the effectiveness of our military, weakening our physical land borders, brainwashing us on our 'systemically racial behavior,' sending us on climate change scavenger hunts and a host of other issues. We Americans are traditionally skeptical people, especially when it comes to our politicians, but the sheer volume of propaganda being force-fed to us these days is unprecedented in its scope and extremely hazardous to our health. Pushing back at its origins is difficult because it seems to be emanating from all Departments of government, simultaneously. While each Department or government agency has its own sacred cows to feed, all of them realize that they must speak with one unified voice to backstop the White House' positions. I suppose that kind of loyalty and co-ordination is to be commended, but I worry that the Administration believes that pushing lies or false equivalencies through the pipeline is perfectly consistent with an *end justifying the means* approach to governance.

They defend their actions as being consistent with a belief in a kind of political intelligent design that allows for 'creative truth-telling' as an acceptable tactic to achieve their ambitions. While there may be certain features of the universe and of living things that can best be explained by an intelligent cause and not an undirected process such as natural selection, I find Washington DC's prevarications (and their prevaricators) as being unworthy of belonging to either one. It may be high time for us to impose a moratorium on our stupidity... and their hubris.

*Stephan Helgesen is a retired career U.S. diplomat who lived and worked in 30 countries for 25 years during the Reagan, G.H.W. Bush, Clinton, and G.W. Bush Administrations. He is the author of eleven books, four of which are on American politics. He operates a political news story aggregator website, [www.projectpushback.com](http://www.projectpushback.com) and can be reached at: [stephan@stephanhelgesen.com](mailto:stephan@stephanhelgesen.com)*