



SPOTLIGHT

Congress Needs More Diversity

In case you think I've suddenly gone woke, let me assure you that nothing could be further from the truth. I remain the same politically-incorrect conservative fire-brand you've come to love... or hate.

And so, when I say that Congress needs more diversity, rest assured that I am not talking about race or gender, because they are mere accidents of birth. After all, no preborn child pages through a catalog in its mother's womb and chooses its sex or skin color. God determines them both through the DNA that He created... and his or her parents contributed.

(For the record, 155 women currently serve in Congress, along with 65 Black Americans, 61 Latino or Hispanic Americans, 21 Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders, and five Native Americans).

No, my friend, I am referring to the profession or vocation of the 435 members of the House of Representatives and the 100 sitting Senators.

Here is how the New York Times described the makeup of the 116th Congress (the current Congress is the 118th)...

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Hands Off Our Kids!

(Disclaimer: Some of the medical references are quoted verbatim from an article by Ben Johnson that appeared in The Washington Stand.)

When you are little, Halloween is a holiday that you circle in red on your calendar... and why not? On this very special day, you get to knock on the door of a complete stranger and - after you say the magical words "Treat or Treat" - they are duty bound to fork over free candy to you. Sometimes, it's a single piece. Other times, it's a handful of goodies.

I have five siblings and when we went Trick or Treating as kids, we had a "system." We knew which house at the corner of Greenleigh Court and Somerset Avenue gave away the full-size Hershey bars. We also knew that Mr. Oakford, the second-generation owner of Aunt Charlotte's candy store, handed out freshly made candy apples. So, we made sure that we "hit" those places before heading home to dump our full bags of candy on the kitchen table, after which we went back out again and again and again.

Like they say on the shampoo bottle: wash, rinse, and repeat. Some years, we gathered so much candy that it lasted until Spring, when our chocolate-laden Easter baskets replenished our supply.

However, collecting free candy wasn't the only Halloween perk. Once a year, we got to dress up as a gunslinger for boys and a fairy princess for girls. My favorite cos-

tume was a matador's outfit that my mother sewed by hand. My two older brothers wore it first, but it was still in good shape by the time I grew into it... and it sure was a lot better than my best friend John's clown costume with the plastic mask (what was his mother thinking?)

Guess what? At age 64, I no longer dress up for Halloween nor do I go door-to-door begging for free candy. Some things you just outgrow, I guess.

That, my friends, was the overall finding of a new and very exhaustive study of supposedly transgender children. Conducted over the course of 15 years by a team of researchers in the Netherlands - not exactly a bastion of conservatism - the results surprised virtually everyone.

The study tracked 2,772 adolescents from the age of 11 to 26, asking them to rate their mental and physical health every three years. The Youth and Adult Self-Report (YSR) asked participants to assess how much they agree with the statement, "I wish to be of the opposite sex." A team of researchers then pored over the data from the Tracking Adolescent's Individual Lives Survey (TRAILS) to measure "gender non-contentedness."

Let's take a "deep dive" into the actual findings...

The study, which was published in the peer-reviewed Archives of Sexual Behavior, showed that 78% of the participants never experienced gen-

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Hands Off Our Kids!

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der dysphoria, compared to just 11% who reported gender “non-contentedness.” That’s a pretty wide margin if I must say so myself.

But wait... there’s more! “The prevalence [of gender non-contentedness] decreased with age and was [only] 4% at the last follow-up (around age 26).” That, my friends, is a decrease of 64%.

In other words, almost all sexually confused children and teenagers grew out of it and were content with their biological sex by the time their brains were fully formed and they entered adulthood. “Researchers also found that adolescents were 950% more likely to feel better about their sex than to feel worse: 19% of participants felt decreased “gender non-contentedness,” as compared with only 2% whose feelings deepened over time.”

No matter how you slice it, those results are significant. More than anything else, they show that - left alone to sort things out— almost all gender-confused kids came around not only to accept their biological sex, but to embrace it.

“This new study simply confirms what has been known for over a decade,” said Jay Richards, PhD, director of the Richard and Helen DeVos Center for Life, Religion, and Family at the Heritage Foundation. Dr. Richards also reported that in 2013, the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) “noted that most kids who experience distress with their sexed bodies resolve those feelings after they pass through natural puberty.”

Admittedly, the Dutch study didn’t

break any new ground. On the contrary, it reinforced the findings of similar studies conducted in 2016 and 2021. “The few longitudinal studies that have been conducted in a clinical setting found low persistence rates of early childhood gender dysphoric feelings into adolescence and adulthood,” wrote the researchers.

Experts say the transgender industry’s early medical intervention actually deepens and prolongs feelings of gender dysphoria that would otherwise go away on their own. “This is what makes ‘gender-affirming’ (that is, sex-denying) medical interventions on minors such a medical atrocity,” explained Richards. “These interventions fast track troubled kids onto a path to sterilization and lifelong medical problems.”

Make that sterilization and lifelong medical problems that are often permanent and 100% preventable!

Lost fertility isn’t the only casualty of so-called “gender-affirming hormonal treatment” known as GAHT. “There is no research into long-term harms, but some evidence suggests decreased IQ and brittle bones,” wrote Leor Sapir, a fellow at the Manhattan Institute. “Permanent sterility is guaranteed for minors who go through full hormonal ‘transition.’ Sexual dysfunction appears to be extremely common as well.”

According to Sapir, GAHT also causes “excruciating genital growth, vaginal atrophy and tearing, and much higher risk for cancer and cardiovascular disease.”

A growing number of young people subjected to transgender ideology at pediatric gender clinics say they wish they had known how common, and fleeting, feelings of transgen-

derism can be. “Young people, particularly young women, are very susceptible to social contagion. They are the most susceptible demographic,” said Prisha Mosley, a detransitioner who now works with the Independent Women’s Forum.

Mosely said that she suffered from mental illness for several years before having radical surgery to outwardly transition from a female to a male. Tragically, her pleas for help were largely ignored and took 10 years for her to be diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder. “But as soon as I heard about gender ideology online and expressed to my doctors that I felt I was born in the wrong body, I was immediately fast-tracked,” Mosely said. “It was less than two years to go from hormones to a double mastectomy and transition.”

Now, Mosely wishes she had waited until her gender confusion passed. Instead, aided and abated by LGBTQ advocates pushing their radical social agenda, her body was carved up by supposed medical professionals.

“This new Dutch study reminds us that children are being subjected to experimental medical interventions to treat what, in most cases, is a temporary psychological state,” summarized Richards. “This is a grotesque perversion of the medical maxim to ‘first, do no harm.’”

Folks, if a minor is too young to smoke, drink, drive, or serve in the military, they have no business deciding their gender. On the contrary, parents, teachers, and doctors alike should reinforce the simple biological fact that there are only two sexes as determined by your chromosomes at birth. Any children who think otherwise should be counseled... not treated with puberty blockers and bodily mutilation.

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Among both Democrats and Republicans, lawyers are staggeringly overrepresented: They constitute less than 1 percent of the voting-age population but more than one-third of the House. Perhaps it is natural for the people writing laws to study them first. But the United States is an exception internationally. Research by Adam Bonica of Stanford and Maya Sen of Harvard found that in Sweden, France and Denmark, lawyers make up less than 10 percent of the legislature.

Not only are lawyers more likely to run for office, they are also more likely to win. This success is largely because of the advantage they have in early fund-raising, drawing from professional networks of other lawyers and affluent professionals.

Once in office, lawyers tend to vote in a way that benefits their profession. They are less likely to support laws that would cap awards for damages or regulate legal fees, according to Mr. Bonica and Ms. Sen's research.

(Please allow me a brief segue to say that there are quite a few attorneys who serve their constituents extremely well in public office. At the federal level, I am grateful for men like Sen. Ted Cruz, who is an expert on constitutional law and would make a great Supreme Court justice; and Rep. Jim Jordan, who has a law degree but never sat for the bar... and yet, has the bulldog tenacity of a prosecutor. Locally, I can't think of a more competent and more effective legislator than State Senator Erin Grall, a pro-life warrior who has also championed parental rights in Tallahassee).

The Times also found that when businesspeople and medical professionals are added to the mix along with attorneys, they constitute more than 70% of Congress. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that the Times drew the following conclusion:

In part because Congress is filled with successful white-collar professionals, the House is much, much richer than the people it represents, and affluent politicians support legislation that benefits their own class at the expense of others.

Whereas 2/3 of Americans 25 and older lack a bachelor's degree, 95% of House members were college educated... and 10% of them studied at elite and very expensive private universities. Now don't get me wrong. There is absolutely nothing wrong with getting a good education. After all, I graduated from Temple University in 1981 with Summa Cum Laude honors and even earned 15 graduate credits before family and ministry responsibilities (and a statistics class that was way above my pay grade) forced me to withdraw.

However, from my vantagepoint we would greatly benefit from having fewer lawyers and more small business owners, accountants, farmers, and tradesmen walking the halls of Congress.

Who better to balance the federal budget than a CPA or someone who ran a small business or non-profit organization on a shoestring? And who could possibly be more qualified to address America's rising food costs than a farmer that grew the corn, a trucker who transported it to market, or a storeowner who sold it to consumers?

Need another example of why out-of-touch legislators and career bu-

reaucrats are clueless when it comes to establishing common-sense government policies? Politicians with little or no business experience mandate automatic increases in the federal minimum wage to placate voters while small business owners realize that such measures will force them to raise prices, lay off workers, or both.

The same goes for cutting back on fossil fuel production and usage... while simultaneously shoving windmills, solar panels, and electric cars down our throats.

Here's another one for you...

In the early 1970s, more than 70% of the members of Congress had a military background. Today, that number has dropped to less than 20%. Don't you think that having more veterans - or active-duty National Guardsmen - would come in handy when making decisions about the defense budget or sending American troops overseas?

Only 20% of the current members of Congress never held a previous political office. In fact, many of them have been in public office (and on the government payroll) for decades. To me, living inside the "Beltway bubble" for a long period of time causes even the best and most dedicated public servants to lose touch with the real world, let alone with their constituents. I guess that is why I am so passionate about instituting term limits for all federal officeholders.

One last point which, on the surface, may come across as a bit self-serving. However, it really isn't because my political aspirations are all in the rearview mirror. Simply put, I think Congress needs more ministers. After all, many of

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our Founding Fathers - such as John and Sam Adams, Patrick Henry, John Hancock, John Jay, John Marshall, and Benjamin Rush - were all evangelical Christians and virtually all our Founders who attended college did so at a time when universities were more or less seminaries. In fact, almost all our present-day Ivy League schools were originally established to train ministers and to spread the gospel.

John Collins, who holds a PhD from Princeton, writes "There were strong religious affiliations at all but Cornell." And Stephen White, a graduate of Central Bible College, adds the following...

Of the eight Ivy League Universities, only Cornell University does

not have Biblical and Church origins. Harvard, Yale and Dartmouth were started by the Congregationalist Church, Columbia by the Episcopal Church, Brown by the Baptist Church, and Princeton by the Presbyterian Church.

Meanwhile, the University of Pennsylvania can trace its origins to Benjamin Franklin's desire to erect a large building in which his close friend and evangelist George Whitefield could preach.

My friends, if America desperately needs a spiritual revival along the lines of the First and Second Great Awakenings (and it DOES), who better to spark the fire and fan the flames than a minister serving in Congress? Throw in a healthy portion of accountants, farmers, tradesmen, and most of all veterans and we might actually get something done in Washington D.C.

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