



### SPOTLIGHT

#### ***Virtue on Vacation***

Do you remember the first days back to school after a long summer vacation? As a kid, there was the anticipation and excitement of seeing your friends again mixed with a sense of dread at knowing that you were about to be given an endless stream of homework assignments... followed by tests, quizzes, book reports, and term papers.

For professional educators, the challenge was to reinforce what was learned the previous year - much of which was forgotten or at least misplaced during those "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" - before forging ahead to new subject matter.

I use that all-too-familiar educational scenario to call attention to what has happened to virtue in America. Generations ago, there was a respect for authority as children obeyed their parents and students listened to their teachers. All a pastor or a policeman needed to do was glance in your direction and you sat up straight and minded your P's and Q's.

Meanwhile, the elderly were respected and consulted for their vast storehouse of knowledge and wisdom.

*continued on page 2*

#### ***See No Evil***

Hard to believe, but it's true...

With more than 10,000 illegal immigrants pouring across the Rio Grande every day, Rep. Pramila Jayapal, a progressive Democrat from Washington State, said that "What we need is for Republicans to stop talking about the border."

No really, she said that... and with a straight face, no less.

In other words, the best solution that the Democrats can offer for the growing immigration crisis at our southern border is to simply ignore it. "Just move along; there's nothing to see here" they chime in unison.

Or should I say, "they lie in unison?"

Ignoring a problem doesn't make it go away. On the contrary, it simply makes it worse. Ask anyone who ignored the early warning signs of cancer, a heart attack, or a stroke if they wish they had acted sooner... and with a greater sense of urgency. Likewise, ask anyone who was forced to file for bankruptcy if they would do anything differently if given the chance.

The "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" approach that Rep. Jayapal advocates is not only childish, but reckless, because uncontrolled immigration has both economic and national security implications. More

than 5 million illegals have poured across our southern border since Sleepy Joe Biden took office. Who is paying for them to be apprehended and processed? Who is paying for them to be housed, clothed, and fed before their release? And who is paying for them to be relocated throughout the United States?

According to the National Immigration Forum, illegal immigrants are eligible for emergency Medicaid, access to treatment in hospital emergency rooms, and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). They are also eligible for Head Start and a public school education. In addition, 26 states provide additional goods and services for illegal immigrants.

All... at... taxpayers... expense!

As far as national security is concerned, 160 people who are on the terrorist watchlist have been apprehended at the southern border so far this year, a 60% increase over 2022. Meanwhile, almost 13,000 convicted criminals have been stopped by the U.S. Border Patrol in 2023 alone, including 24 murderers and 253 sexual predators.

But don't be alarmed, because Pramila Jayapal and her Democratic colleagues say there's nothing to worry about. Sleep easy, America.

### IN THIS ISSUE...

 **Busting the Electoral Monopoly... page 2**

## ***Virtue on Vacation***

*continued from page 1*

Neighbors looked after - and cared for - neighbors and an almost tangible sense of community was commonplace from the rural plains to small-town America... and yes, included inner city neighborhoods, too.

Fast forward to today and, unless you live in the deep south, “yes sirs” and “yes ma’ams” have gone the way of the Edsel, iceboxes, and the rotary phone. Young men, who once were trained to offer their seat

to a woman or a senior citizen, now sit while others stand. Profanity, once relegated to men-only conversations, is now used indiscriminately in mixed company with the gals giving as much as they are taking, sometimes more.

However, being an eternal optimist, I refuse to believe that America has reached the point of no return. In fact, return is exactly what we need: a return to God, a return to civility and mutual respect, a return to common courtesy and common decency, and a return to the Judeo-

Christian principles that once made us great... and can do so again.

No, it won't be easy and no, it won't happen overnight. After all, it took liberals, progressives, and Saul Alinsky acolytes multiple decades to upend and unravel what our Founding Fathers built and weaved together. However, as the sign on Ronald Reagan's desk said, “It CAN be done!”

If we are willing, if we are diligent, and if we are true Americans. After all, virtue isn't gone... it simply took an extended vacation.

## ***Busting the Electoral Monopoly***

Had Ross Perot not run as a third-party candidate in 1992, it is reasonable to assume that George H.W. Bush would have been re-elected and Bill Clinton would have become a mere asterisk in the annals of losing presidential campaigns. The same goes for 2000, when Ralph Nader and the Green Party siphoned off just enough votes from Al Gore to catapult George W. Bush into the White House.

In 1968, it can be argued that George Wallace cost Hubert Humphrey the presidency and gift-wrapped it for Richard Nixon instead. And in 1912, Teddy Roosevelt and the Progressive (Bull Moose) Party divided the Republican vote and in doing so, handed the keys to the Oval Office to Woodrow Wilson. However, don't feel too badly for William Howard Taft, the Republican incumbent, because his consolation prize was an appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court nine years later...

as Chief Justice, no less.

And yes, Abraham Lincoln would probably have returned to Illinois to practice law and split rails had John Breckenridge and Stephen A. Douglas not splintered the Democrat vote in 1860. Oh, the tangled webs weaved by third - and sometimes fourth— party candidates throughout American history.

That being said, I am intrigued by the prospect of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. running as an Independent in 2024. Not because I plan to vote for him, because I don't, but because it is high time that the Republican and Democratic stranglehold on the presidency comes to an end. And if Joe Manchin also decides to jump into the race under the No Labels banner... well, it's “the more the merrier” as far as I am concerned.

From 1789 to 1861, there were two Federalist presidents (Washington and John Adams), three Democratic-Republicans (Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe), one National Republican (John Quincy Adams), five Democrats, and four Whigs (only two of which were

elected). That's a nice variety of officeholders, ensuring that no one party dominated the federal government.

However, from 1861 to 2023, there have been 31 different presidents: 19 Republicans and 12 Democrats. That is counting Grover Cleveland twice (#22 and #24) and FDR only once, even though he was elected four times. Those numbers also include unelected presidents who assumed the office when their predecessor was assassinated, died in office, or resigned... although all but Andrew Johnson, Chester Arthur, and Gerald Ford were subsequently elected in their own right.

That's 162 years of uninterrupted power for the two-party system with every president being either a Republican or a Democrat. In business terms, we call that a monopoly and it's unhealthy for democracy because it stifles both competition and accountability.

Now before hordes of amateur historians leap to correct me, yes,

*continued on page 3*

## ***Busting the Electoral Monopoly***

*continued from page 2*

I am fully aware that America is not a democracy. Rather, it is a constitutional republic and that is a good thing, because government by a simple majority can be problematic - and even dangerous - for those in the minority. However, my point remains that a two-party system offers little incentive for either party to make major adjustments or to be truly responsive to the electorate because even if they lose this election, they are bound to win the next one... or the one after that.

Two hundred and thirty-four years of U.S. presidential history teaches us that, after a few years of one party holding the reins of power, Americans get bored and/or angry and desire a change. And so, they "throw the bums out," only to elect a member of that same party in a subsequent and not-too-distant

election.

Having a viable third or fourth alternative would, if nothing else, hold the Republicans and the Democrats accountable and force them to be on their toes. Citizens who are not well-heeled or well-connected might actually get engaged in the political process and may even run for office themselves. At the very least, a three or four-way contest would shake up the status quo and help to drain the Washington swamp of its career inhabitants.

Yes, with more than two major candidates it would be much harder for one of them to win the 270 electoral votes necessary to ascend to the presidency, in which case the House of Representatives would determine the winner. Each state's House delegation would cast a singular vote among the top three vote-getters. The Senate would choose the vice president with each senator casting a vote between the top two vote-getters.

This scenario played out in 1824, with the House selecting John Quincy Adams over Andrew Jackson and William H. Crawford, even though Jackson won the most popular and electoral votes in the general election. The difference maker was Henry Clay, who came in fourth and therefore, was not included in the House runoff election. However, Clay threw his support behind Adams, which was enough to put him over the top. In exchange, Adams appointed Clay to be his Secretary of State, creating a furor known as the "Corrupt Bargain."

But guess what? Our republic survived, just like it did the disputed elections of 1800, 1876, 2000, and 2020. I am confident that it will likewise survive - and perhaps flourish - with more than two serious presidential candidates in 2024.

Bring it on!

---

## ***Don't Shoot the Messenger***

There is an elephant in the room, and no one wants to admit it. In fact, people in power are content to ignore its existence, hoping that it will simply go away.

Well, it won't... not without bold and coordinated action. And so, let me be the Guinea pig - or more appropriately, the sacrificial lamb - who says what everyone else is thinking, but no one has the courage to say.

However, before putting my neck on the line, here are my bona fides: 36 years of ministering to hundreds

of thousands of mostly minority inmates and at-risk youth across North America and Africa, three non-white in-laws, and six biracial grandchildren.

Now buckle up, because here we go...

Like most Americans, I have watched in horror at the scenes of mass looting, smash and grab robberies, and unprovoked attacks on innocent bystanders that have dominated our news broadcasts over the past several years. The uncontrolled mayhem and the complete disregard for other people's lives and property have made me sick... and very, very angry.

Whatever happened to common decency? And when - and more importantly, why - has anarchy replaced a collective respect for authority? Just as importantly, what are the common threads linking these heinous crimes together?

OK, here is where I get into trouble because from what I have seen, most of these crimes are being committed by young people in their late teens and early twenties. And yes, the vast majority of the culprits also appear to be minorities, especially black Americans.

It is said that liars lie, but facts never do. And so, let me share some facts with you. Black Ameri-

*continued on page 4*

## Don't Shoot the Messenger

*continued from page 3*

cans comprise about 12% of our population, and roughly half of them are men. And yet, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, those 6% are responsible for 63% of all violent crimes in America.

Please know that I am not pointing fingers, casting blame, or demonizing a racial or ethnic group en masse. I wouldn't have poured my life's blood into ministering in more than 400 prisons on two continents if I didn't care about minorities. I am simply stating facts... and seeking a solution to America's crime crisis and the moral breakdown of our society as a whole.

The question that needs to be asked and answered is this: why does such a small percentage of our population act in such a violent, destructive, and anti-social way? From my decades of prison ministry experience, I believe it boils down to one primary factor, which is the breakdown of the nuclear family. More specifically, absentee dads and the near total lack of positive male role models.

Before Lyndon Johnson introduced his ill-conceived Great Society and instituted the modern-day welfare system, only 25% of black Americans were born out of wedlock. Today, thanks to Uncle Sam paying benefits to single moms for each additional child they have, the out-of-wedlock birthrate in the black community is above 70%... compared to 52% for Hispanics, 28% for whites, and just 12% for Asian Americans.

Why is that a problem? Because 60

years of comprehensive studies show that out-of-wedlock birth is the leading predictor of future incarceration and lifelong poverty. And so, it is no surprise that, without a father in the home, black teenage boys are far more likely to get into trouble with the law than their white, Asian, or Latino counterparts.

Folks, if we really care about these young men, we will cast aside all fear of being called every name in the book and do something about it. Stop Band-Aiding the problem and start addressing it head-on. That is the only way we can turn this ship around before it crashes onto the rocks and splinters into a thousand unsalvageable pieces.

One in four black men between ages 18 and 25 is either in prison, on probation, or parole... and that number increases to more than 40% in cities like Baltimore and Washington D.C. So, don't tell me that there's not a problem. Instead, let's work together to find a solution.

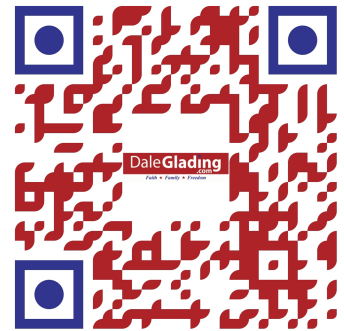
We can begin by eliminating welfare programs or at least scaling them way back, and using those monies to support non-profit organizations that are on the front lines such as Teen Challenge and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. We can also incentivize marriage and offer a tax-break for stay-at-home moms (see more about this proposal in tomorrow's post). And maybe we should consider requiring a year or two of national service – either in the military, the National Park Service, or AmeriCorps – upon high school graduation. Not only do such programs provide much-needed discipline, but it's hard to father an out-of-wedlock child if you are living in a war zone or the middle of a forest.

I am convinced that we can win this

battle and reclaim these young lives from the abyss. After all, their God-given potential is virtually limitless. However, it will require political courage and intestinal fortitude, both of which are rare commodities in Washington DC and state capitals across America.

Ideally, naysayers would resist the urge to play the race card against people who are simply acknowledging a problem and trying to solve it. But rest assured that some critics will resort to demonizing those offering to help, thereby sacrificing yet another lost generation of young black men - Jesse Jackson coined that phrase, not me – to advance their own selfish and short-sighted political agendas.

In the meantime, people who are willing to take up the fight should grow a thick skin and put on the whole armor of God. Something tells me we are going to need both.



*Use the QR code for my latest blogs!*

**Contact us...**

*at*

*[dale@daleglading.com](mailto:dale@daleglading.com)*

*to advertise or to order*

*free copies for*

*distribution or display.*