



### SPOTLIGHT

## **The Danger of Playing Politics with Police Shootings**

Another day, another egregious and unwarranted police shooting of a black American... or at least that's what the liberal left and the mainstream media would have you to believe.

The details are still coming out about the shooting of Sonya Massey, a 36-year-old mother of two who was killed in her own kitchen by Sheriff's Deputy Sean Grayson of Sangamon County, Illinois. Reportedly, Ms. Massey had called 911 to report a possible intruder in her Springfield home on July 6th. Thirty minutes later, she was dead.

The bodycam that Deputy Grayson was wearing doesn't tell the whole story. It simply shows Massey holding a pot of boiling water while Deputy Grayson is heard warning her, "You better not or I swear to God, I'll shoot you in the face."

Why Ms. Massey had removed the pot from the stove and what she planned to do with it is uncertain. I assume Deputy Grayson felt threatened by her actions, which is why he issued the warning... and then opened fire.

Deputy Grayson was termi-

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## **A Tale of Two Countries**

When Charles Dickens penned his classic historical novel A Tale of Two Cities, he sought to describe the differences between a calm and civilized London and the unrest and upheaval of Paris before and during the French Revolution. His main character, Dr. Alexandre Manette, is freed from the Bastille after serving an 18-year sentence, after which he relocates to England to live with his daughter Lucie, whom he has never met.

Here is the cryptic opening passage of the novel...

*"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way - in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."*

Sounds eerily familiar, doesn't it? Change a few historical and geographic references and the story could be an accurate description of the United States in the year 2024.

Never before in my lifetime have I

seen our country so polarized and almost equally divided. It is almost as if the ghosts of Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee have risen from their graves to fight once again for the right to determine our nation's destiny. "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand," Jesus said in Matthew 12:25. "A house divided against itself cannot stand," Lincoln echoed in one of his most famous speeches.

In Lincoln's case, he went on to say that "I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved - I do not expect the house to fall - but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."

Truer - and more prophetic - words have never been spoken in American history, because after four long years of war and the loss of more than 600,000 soldiers and countless civilians, it was no longer legal to buy, sell, or own another human being.

Fast forward to 2024, and we are once again a house divided. Don't believe me? Just look at a recent poll by Statista's Consumer Insights which shows that inflation is the #1 issue across all political spectrums. After that, however, it is an absolute free-for-all with liberals listing health/social security, climate change, and poverty as their next

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## ***The Danger of Playing Politics with Police Shootings***

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nated after the event, but his union has filed a complaint, claiming he was fired “without just cause.” Hopefully, the truth will come out and justice will be served. Either Deputy Grayson felt threatened and fired in self defense or he acted inappropriately and should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

It will take time to determine the facts of the case, which is why politicians, pastors, and pundits should refrain from jumping to conclusions to advance their own agendas. “Sonya Massey deserved to be safe,” Vice President Kamala Harris told reporters, adding that she and her husband, second gentleman Doug Emhoff, were “grieving her senseless death.”

That’s not very helpful nor is it very responsible, Ms. Harris, because we don’t know all the details of the shooting. Certainly, as a former prosecutor, district attorney, and attorney general, you understand how dangerous it is for anyone - let alone the vice president of the United States and a candidate for the presidency - to rush to judgment in such a case. However, in this instance, there were political points to be made and so, Ms. Harris threw her law enforcement background out the window in favor of scoring a few headlines and swaying a few voters with her intentionally inflammatory comments.

The truth of the matter is that although the trend of fatal police shootings in the United States has

increased from 981 in 2017 to 1,163 in 2023, the majority of the victims were white. In 2024 to date, just 98 (21%) of the 469 civilians who have been shot by police were black.

With black Americans comprising roughly 12% of the general population, it is easy to claim that some of those shootings were racially motivated. However, it would also be intellectually dishonest to make that assertion because, according to the FBI and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, black Americans commit a disproportionate number of all violent crimes.

For instance, there were 461,540 violent crimes committed in 2020: 274,280 (59%) by white Americans and 167,030 (36%) by black Americans. That means that black Americans account for three times more violent crimes than their percentage of the general population.

Statistics don’t lie, but politicians running for office often do and sadly, their lies continue to fan the flames of racial division that are tearing our country apart. It is far better to remain silent and reserve judgment until all the facts are known than to add fuel to the racial fires that are burning down our inner cities and our nation as a whole.

Meanwhile, law enforcement officers - the vast majority of whom are both competent and courageous - are being unfairly demonized by the media and the masses. It is no wonder why many jurisdictions are finding it difficult to recruit enough officers to fill their ranks... and that is what should trouble law-abiding Americans across every race and ethnicity.

## ***A Tale of Two Countries***

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most pressing concerns while conservatives rank crime, the economy, and immigration in that order. As you would imagine, the rapidly diminishing political center reflects a mixture of the other two camps.

So, where do we go from here? Liberals want more government and conservatives desire less. Liberals want a completely secular society whereas conservatives think we need to return to our founding Judeo-Christian principles. Liberals push DEI and a radical LGBTQ+ agenda while conservatives promote a meritocracy and traditional values. Liberals think that schools have the right to co-parent our children, but conservatives believe adamantly in parental rights.

Perhaps most telling, liberals advocate for abortion-on-demand while conservatives assert that life begins at conception and so, abortion is murder.

You would be mistaken if you think this year’s presidential election pits Donald Trump versus Kamala Harris. On the contrary, it is a battle for the very soul and future of America.

The old adage “To the victor goes the spoils” has never been more true.

## ***The Not Ready for Prime Time Players***

I was a junior in high school when Saturday Night Live (originally called NBC's Saturday Night) first aired during the 1975-1976 TV season. It became an instant hit, especially with younger viewers who were anxious to stay up late on weekends and loved the irreverent humor.

Our parents had the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, but we had the Not Ready for Prime Time Players.

The original cast consisted of (in alphabetical order): Dan Akroyd, John Belushi, Chevy Chase, George Coe (whom I only vaguely remember), Jane Curtain, Garrett Morris, Laraine Newman, Michael O'Donoghue (whom I don't recall at all), and Gilda Radnor. Who can forget "Weekend Update" hosted by "I'm Chevy Chase and you're not"... or Point/Counter-Point with Akroyd and Curtain imitating James Kilpatrick and Shana Alexander of "60 Minutes"? And then there was Radnor's portrayal of the hard-of-hearing Emily Litella and the brash Roseanne Roseannadanna. What a show!

When Chase left after SNL's inaugural season to pursue a movie ca-

reer, he was replaced by comic icon Bill Murray. Akroyd and Belushi left after Season 2 to launch their own movie careers and for all intents and purposes, SNL lost its momentum and much of its audience (including me).

Nowadays, when people refer to SNL it is usually with the tagline, "Remember when Saturday Night Live used to be funny?"

Well folks, there's nothing funny about the Kamala Harris - Tim Walz ticket that is far and away the most radical in American history. In fact, they are to the left of Eugene Debs, the five-time presidential nominee of the Social Democratic Party. Debs ran unsuccessfully for president in 1900, 1904, 1908, 1912, and 1920... the last time while he was incarcerated for sedition (Debs promised to pardon himself if elected). As crazy as it sounds, America's first true Socialist politician received 914,191 votes in 1920 and 6% of the vote total in 1912.

Crazier still is the fact that Harris and Walz are virtually assured of winning more than 70 million votes this year and at least 45% of the popular vote total. Yes, that's how uninformed, uneducated, and undiscerning many voters are these days.

## ***Kamala's Buzzword Campaign***

Ever since Joe Biden withdrew from the race and threw his support behind Kamala Harris, she may as well have joined the FBI's witness protection program. Outside of some carefully scripted rallies where she read off a teleprompter,

Ms. Harris has conducted a "Where's Waldo" campaign for the presidency, leaving it to her sycophants in the mainstream media to do the actual campaigning for her.

To make sure that all the news outlets are on the same page, the Harris campaign and the DNC have been supplying them with a series of buzzwords that lack both authen-

And yet, these two Not Ready for Prime Time Players would make George McGovern and Eugene McCarthy look like right-wing extremists by comparison. Debs, McGovern, and McCarthy would not have advocated for open borders, free healthcare for illegal immigrants (Harris), or driver's licenses for illegal aliens (Walz). Nor would Debs, McGovern, and McCarthy have supported late-term and even post-birth abortions or gender reassignment surgery for minors without parental consent.

Free hormone treatments for transitioning active-duty military? Not on your life, Debs would say. Tampon dispensers in boys' bathrooms, one of Walz's pet projects? You've got to be kidding me, McGovern and McCarthy would declare in unison.

Just 50 years ago, the Democrat Party was filled with statesmen such as Hubert Humphrey, Henry "Scoop" Jackson, and Sam Nunn. Today, its ranks are replete with America-hating incompetents, communists, sexual deviants, and anti-semites.

Somewhere in Independence, Missouri, Harry S. Truman is rolling over in his grave... and no one is laughing except for Karl Marx.

ticity and originality – and which are eerily reminiscent of the "Hope" and "Change" that the junior senator from Illinois promised voters in 2008.

Purposely vague buzzwords meant to energize and excite an uneducated electorate. The strategy worked for Barack Obama, and the

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## Kamala's Buzzword Campaign

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DNC is betting it will do likewise for its far less eloquent standard-bearer in 2024.

Watch the news and you will find the following...

Whenever Kamala Harris is talking, she will mention "the future", "we're not going back", and "when we fight, we win" ad nauseum. And whenever one of her minions -

from "Tampon Tim" Walz to the talking heads at CNBC - are speaking, they will describe the "joy" Kamala has brought to the campaign in the rapt terms of a lovesick teenager.

Will "the Future" and "Joy" be enough to satisfy voters or will a more discerning public and the MSM demand more? Team Harris is counting on young and minority voters to vote now and ask questions later. Whether they will settle for sound bites and follow her dystopian marching orders remains to be seen.

## Want more?

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*"Willie Horton May Cost the Democrats Yet Another Election"*

*"The Two Faces of Tim Walz"*

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