

Free speech isn't all free

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Be Counted

If we look around ourselves, we find numerous problems.

Locally, we have unresponsive and corrupt governments. Nationally, our government — elected officials and otherwise — not only is unresponsive but many times works against the interests of the citizenry and for small but powerful groups.

Problems such as illegal immigrants, hunger, health costs and insurance are among the unresolved problems that face our nation. Internationally, we see the spectrum of problems from hunger and genocide to terrorism and rogue states.

The United Nations, once a hope for common humanitarian interests, has become a haven and mouthpiece for hatred, corruption and duplicity, where dictatorships have an equal voice as democracies. All of these problems impact each of us and sew the seeds of decay for civilization and western-style democracy.

One would think that problems could be met head-on, but how can a problem be analyzed and solved unless it is recognized as such? Yet, Political Correctness, PC, is such a powerful force in American and Western societies that certain things cannot be said without retribution, sometimes with life-threatening results.

Certain problems cannot be frankly discussed therefore or solved. In those instances in which problems are admitted, someone is always blamed. There are many examples of this. A politician cannot criticize the ills of the Social Security system without being targeted by senior citizen lobbying groups. Even our airport security system has to be politically correct, essentially ignoring intelligence data when screening for potential threats.

The story of the emperor with no clothes is an apt descriptor of American and Western European democratic societies. These countries that invented and died for freedom over hundreds of years, that created constitutional systems for individual liberty, are no longer allowed to defend themselves against those who wish them harm and destruction.

It is also not permissible to have certain opinions. For example, when a representative of the Minutemen, whose origin in the Southwest United States was born in response to massive illegal immigration and the resulting crime wave there, tried to speak at Columbia University, he was shouted down and had to cancel his speech.

Here are some inconvenient facts (INS/FBI statistics):

- 95 percent of warrants for murder in Los Angeles are for illegal aliens
- 83 percent of warrants for murder in Phoenix are for illegal aliens
- 380,000-plus "anchor babies" were born in the United States in 2005 to illegal alien parents, making 380,000 babies automatically U.S. citizens
- 97.2 percent of all costs incurred from those births were paid by the American taxpayers
- 66 percent plus of all births in California are to illegal alien Mexicans on Medi-Cal — births paid for by taxpayers.

But those who present this problem are shouted down as racist or anti-immigrant. Intimidation is a popular tool. No free speech allowed here.

Whatever one may think of the Minutemen, they are not doing anything illegal and have the right of free speech. Nevertheless, we have arrived in this country at a point where one needs a road map or, better yet, a speech map, that tells us what we can say and what we cannot. We do not want to offend anyone.

In addition, we have changed our vocabulary to make sure that feelings are not hurt as well. Prisons are correctional facilities, for example. But at the same time, some feelings don't matter. It is fine to compare certain elected officials to Hitler. Former President Carter feels no shame in describing the Israeli nation as an apartheid state. This is the same President Carter who said that we, the American people, had an inordinate fear of communism — after which the Soviets invaded Afghanistan.

In many ways George Orwell's world of 1984 has arrived. We have thought police whose purpose is to patrol our verbal highways, making sure to punish us if we stray off the road, calling us racists, or Nazis, or whatever, to intimidate us to back down. We have been intimidated to the point where we have been conditioned to know what we can say and what we cannot. We hold our collective tongues, even if we know better. In Europe, murder is threatened and used as an effective intimidation tool.

Let us hear what you have to say. If you are ignorant, we will call you ignorant. If you choose to call Israel an apartheid state, then we will tell you that you are a very ignorant person — and given that you were once president, we will thank God that you no longer are in power.

Let us bury the PC movement. I find it offensive that someone is going to tell me what to say, what I can listen to, what I can think or read or believe. That is what the PC movement is all about. It is about one group controlling the actions of another. Here is Amendment 1 of our Constitution:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Be informed, be counted and keep saying what you believe.

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