

# **HERMIT HERALD**

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### **QUOTE FOR THE DAY:**

**“You can’t have it both ways”**

### **BIDEN vs BLOW:**

**Yesterday, Mr. Biden spoke up to defend Washington and Jefferson, both substantial slave owners. His point being that those whose memories we should erase have to have had two characteristics: slave owners/slavery supporters and members of the Confederacy. “They committed treason, trying to take down a union to keep slavery.” He goes on to say that monuments to those in that category don’t belong in public.**

**However, if you were simply a slave owner and not a member of the Confederacy, you get a pass, and therefore it is fine to keep the Jefferson Memorial, which, “Serves more as a remembrance and should be protected.”**

**Huh? Wait a minute here. The issue is about slavery. Did you support slavery or not? That is the litmus test. So, enter stage left, Charles M. Blow, national columnist, and the first major name I have seen going after the biggest icon, George Washington. He goes after Washington in a big way and therefore, no one, going forward, gets a free pass. You can't be a slave owner and get a wink because you weren't part of the Confederacy. "You can't have your cake and eat it too."**

#### **FAKE NEWS:**

**This just in: The noses on the faces of G. Washington, T. Jefferson and T. Roosevelt have been blown off at Mt. Rushmore. A. Lincoln was uninjured. Yes, fake news, but only for now.**

**Let me caution our readers, I am simply an observer, not an advocate, but here's where we are going with all this zealotry.**

**Thousands of City names, street names, statues, college names, (you get a two for one with Washington & Lee), they all have to come**

**down. The Terminators, I call them, say no one gets a pass.**

**Every vestige of slavery must be eradicated, except for the biggest one; those poor people living today who are slavery's inheritors three centuries later.**

### **REPARATIONS:**

**Nikole Hannah-Jones wrote a lengthy piece for last Sunday's NY Times magazine, "What is owed." It takes us through the history of blacks from the time they were freed to the current day. A theme that seems consistent over the years is that freeing the slaves wasn't freedom. They were given their freedom, but nothing else - no food, no money, no clothing, no housing, no land - but lucky you - you're free!!**

**One thing I never knew was that in 1865 Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman issued Special Field Order 15, "providing for the distribution Of hundreds of thousands of acres of former Confederate land issued in 40 acre tracts to newly freed people along coastal S. Carolina and Georgia."**

**Shortly after Lincoln was assassinated and Andrew Johnson had become president, “As a pro-Southern racist, he immediately reneged on this promise, overturning Sherman’s order.”**

**And so it has gone on for more that 150 years, blacks have been continually oppressed, notwithstanding civil rights laws and a handful of other legislative actions. And then, of course, we have these occasional flare ups, after which everyone declares that something must be done, but, at the end of the day, nothing substantively changes. Ms. Hannah-Jones would have us believe that this time it is different.**

**Her contention is that money/reparations paid to descendents of slaves will replace those forty acres given and then taken. It will enable blacks to boot strap themselves up and have a better shot at the American dream, whatever that is. With regard to where these payments would come from, she says, “White Americans are not the ones who would pay for them... Reparations are a societal obligation in a nation where our constitution sanctioned**

**slavery. Congress passed laws protecting it and our Federal government initiated, condoned and practiced legal racial segregation and discrimination against black Americans... And so, it is the Federal government that pays.”**

**Wow!! Looks like Ms. Hannah-Jones needs a refresher on Econ. 101. Who funds the Federal government? It’s called taxes, paid for by white Americans and many others.**

**So who is going to qualify for these reparations? Ms. Hannah-Jones has a formula. “Reparations would go to any person who has documentation that he or she identified as a black person for at least 10 years before the beginning of any reparations process.” Whoa-wait a minute. I know you can have a gender change, but I didn’t know you can have a racial change. She goes on, “And you must be able to trace at least one ancestor back to American slavery.”**

**“Critically, reparations must include individual cash payments to descendants of the enslaved in order to close the wealth gap.” No mentions**

**of what might be required; \$50,000 per person or \$500,000 per person?**

**I am in total disagreement with her suggestions. \$100,000 isn't going to close the "wealth gap" it's not going to better educate the individual, it's going to be spent on stuff. In two earlier issues I have advocated a many trillion dollar Marshall plan for our inner cities – better schools, hospitals, housing for all, not just those who can prove they're descended from one slave. I'm also an advocate for the Action takers – those firms and individuals that are stepping up with strong commitments to hire and promote more blacks. As may be guessed, I am not a fan of the Reactors – the terminators, whose actions do nothing to move the ball down the field.**

### **CRISIS DU JOUR:**

**Russia – it's taken over the news cycle. Come to find out that it appears likely, but not 100% proven that Russian Intel. has been funding the Taliban, giving them bounties to kill U.S. service members in Afghanistan. Even the loss**

**of one U.S. life is a tragedy and, in the instance of these allegations, it appears this was not an extensive program, but nonetheless, infuriating to Americans. What is this, Russians attacking us, when at the same time we are having discussions with them about defusing the conflict in Afghanistan? Yep, you got it. It's called proxy warfare and, like the Russians, we're in it up to our ears in Yemen, Syria and Libya, to name a few (more in future issues). Anyway, the press is like a hive of angry hornets. Who knew about it, when did they know and what is being done about it? All valid questions, but it's gotten so hyper we need a little perspective.**

**“Charlie Wilson’s War” – a must read for anyone who hasn’t, and, by the way, better than the movie starring Tom Hanks. For this saga we go back to the 80’s when the Russians were having a field day in Afghanistan. It looked they might succeed in winning the war. The reason the Russians were so successful was due to their unchallenged air superiority, especially with their Hind helicopters. Charlie Wilson was a larger than life, frequently intoxicated, congressman. In**

**violation of rules, he was heavily lobbied by Gust Avrakotos of the CIA. Gust knew what the Mujahideen in Afghanistan needed to level the playing field – weaponry to shoot down Russian aircraft. Joined by prominent philanthropist and diplomat Joanne King Herring, the three of them were able to get the administration’s attention and super secret “Operation Cyclone” was started. And so it was that a \$300+ million program was started to assist the Mujahideen in their fight against the Russians. The crown jewel was the U.S. providing shoulder mounted, heat seeking stinger missiles. No marksmanship needed here, just aim in the general direction, it seeks the exhaust heat of the aircraft and, Kaboom!! Just go on line to see year by year the hundreds of Soviet aircraft that were blown out of the sky with our weapons along with the loss of thousands of Russian airmen.**

**The result was the humiliating withdrawal from Afghanistan by the Soviets in 1989. It’s called a proxy war, and we whupped up on the Russians big time.**

**Your faithful scribe, PB**



