

HERMIT HERALD

ISSUE 122

JULY 26, 2021

QUOTE FOR THE DAY

“Great nations such as ours do not hide from our shortcomings.” Anthony Blinken, Secretary of State as he requests that the U.N. conduct an inquiry into racism in the United States.

“NAÏVE AND DANGEROUS”

Says the WSJ. This statement by Blinken, reflective of the president’s views, is sheer idiocy. It is self serving because the first paragraph of the report that the U.N. will write will be to exonerate the current administration from all the awful things they are about to say about the U.S.- something like, “Because they had the courage to bring it up they are themselves free from any taint of Systemic racism.” What political theater!

I'm sure most of our readers know that the majority of countries in the U.N. have actively disliked the U.S. and Israel for many decades, and we are going to ask them to critique the U.S., a la former Mayor Koch, "How am I doin?"

Three of the eager respondents to Mr. Blinken's request will be China, Russia and Cuba, all of whom have seats on the U.N. Human Rights Commission- go figure!!

Ronald Reagan famously told the story of an American telling a Russian, "The U.S. is so free I can stand outside the White House and yell, the hell with Ronald Reagan." The Russian replies, he has the same freedom, "I can stand in front of the Kremlin and yell, "to hell with Ronald Reagan too." Secretary Blinken is on a fool's errand.

BYE, BYE NORTHERN IRELAND

The 1998 Good Friday Agreement ended 30 years of armed conflict between the Unionists (protestants and pro England) and the Nationalists (Catholics and anti England). Today, the Nationalists are upset that because of Brexit, Northern Ireland is being removed

from the European Bloc against the wishes of the majority who wanted to remain in the bloc.

Interesting things have happened in Northern Ireland since the 1998 agreement. According to columnist, Susan McKay, Northern Ireland is well on its way to having a Catholic majority and the Unionists find themselves out of step with current attitudes. Ms. McKay states, "PM Boris Johnson has made it clear that his government would cheerfully ditch this last little fragment of Britain's empire if it continues to complicate Brexit."

As Northern Ireland is on the verge of becoming a Catholic majority state, it is also becoming more secular and diverse so that, even within the Unionists there are those who are no longer so tied to England.

The Nationalist political party, Sinn Fein, is surging ahead in the polls in advance of next year's elections. "While about 50% of Northern Ireland's voters back remaining in the United Kingdom, support for Irish unity is growing. If Unionists cannot deliver (satisfactory solutions to current problems) a growing

number are contemplating what for previous generations was unthinkable: that a unified Ireland might not be the end of the world.”

ERIC ADAMS RESPONSE TO, “BIG BLUE LIES”

“Defunding police means defunding police.” Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. “No more policing, incarceration and militarization. It can’t be reformed.” Rep. Rashide Tlaib. “It’s not a slogan, but a policy demand.” Rep. Ilhan Omar – as they all demand defunding the police while saying out of the corners of their mouths that it’s the Republican’s fault because they failed to support the Democrat’s \$1.9 trillion Covid rescue package earlier this year. Problem is these ladies are long on rhetoric and short on research. “Indeed, not a single dollar of the American rescue plan was ever reserved for law enforcement spending.”

Enter Eric Adams, the black former NYPD captain who it appears will be the next mayor of New York City. As columnist Bret Stephens says in a recent NY Time article, “For progressives a nightmare. For big city America, a godsend.” So who is this guy anyway?

“Adams is a former cop who crusaded against police brutality, a leading Democrat who was once a Republican; a machine politician who casts himself as a foe of city bureaucracy; a self described progressive who’s friendly to charter schools and real estate developers, and, most recently, a champion of law and order who refutes the idea that a black leader must be on the left.”

Stephens comments, “Democrats are again becoming the party of urban misrule, just as they were in the seventies. In Portland and Seattle progressive mayors have ceded the public square to anarchists and rioters. In San Francisco and Los Angeles, to homeless encampments and addicts. In Chicago and Baltimore, to street gangs and gun violence.”

Stephens goes on, “Adams believes that effective policing is the basis for justice, not an enemy of it. Well -intentioned liberals, he says, ‘have piggybacked off the appealing, attractive conversation- you know, Black Lives Matter. Well if they matter, damn it, then they should

be talking about a 13 year old kid being assassinated in the Bronx.”

Oh, and guess what? Under Mayor Adams, Stop and Frisk is coming back, which was hugely successful during Bloomberg’s administration. With Adams it will be done with more controls than previously. He calls it, “Stop, question, frisk.” No question, the old stop and frisk came to be abused, but a more disciplined form should be welcome. As a nation we have become more concerned about the innocent person who might be stopped on the sidewalk at 2AM than we are about the thousands of victims of gun- fire and other violence.

Basically, Adams is committed to kick ass on crime in New York City. He says, “When I get out of that subway station, I want to see that cop at the top of the stairs.” Bravo, Mr. Adams, but an incomplete thought: we also want to see another cop inside the subway station.

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY, BLACKS AND OTHERS

William Spriggs, professor at Howard University and Columnist, David Brooks, have

authored recent articles on inequity in black employment. Dr. Spriggs points out that, “Economists have tried to rationalize this disparity by saying it merely reflects differences in skill levels. Whether said explicitly or implied, the gap is explained by black people simply having fewer skills and therefore lower levels of employment.”

Brooks jumps in by citing the likelihood that racism plays a role in the employment disparity. He note, “In 2004 researchers sent equally qualified white and black applicants to job interviews in New York City, dressed them similarly and gave them similar things to say. Black applicants got half as many callbacks or job offers as whites.” That is really strong stuff, but a single, finite study. Statistically significant? I don’t know. It is such an important finding, however, that it boggles the mind that researchers have not been replicating this exercise at least every couple of years. That conclusions are drawn about racism in hiring based on a single study from 17 years ago is insane.

Dr Spriggs goes on to comment, “Asian Americans are also suffering long term unemployment with jobless spells that are somewhat worse than that for black workers.” This could lead you to ponder, isn’t there a hiring prejudice against all who are non-white?

Back to Mr. Brooks, we learn that is simply not the case. “Hispanic American incomes rose faster in recent years than those of any other major group in the United States. Forty-five percent of Hispanics who grew up in poverty made it to the middle class or higher, comparable to the mobility rate for whites.”

“Hispanics have lately made astounding gains in education. In 2000, more than 30% of Hispanics dropped out of high school. By 2016 only 10 % did. In 1999, a third of Hispanics age 18 to 24 were in college; now nearly half are. The Hispanic experience in America is beginning to look similar to the experience of Irish Americans or Italian Americans or other past immigrant groups- a period of struggle followed by integration into the middle class.”

Surely, racism appears to be a factor affecting all minority groups, but what other factors might be at play? Going back to HH issue 120, I reiterate the thoughts of Dr. Shelby Steele of Stanford who pointed out that 83% of black children have no father in the home and only 17% make it to high school graduation. He asks, "Where is the path to success from there?" Placed in juxtaposition to the above data on Hispanics there appear to be additional components to understanding the black employment issues.

LITERARY CORNER

A shout out to our fellow reader, Williamson "Wick" Murray who has recently received the prestigious Pritzker award for outstanding contributions to military history.

Two shouts are better than one. I advised our readers some months ago about the book, "The Boy and the Boy King" (Amazon) written by our fellow reader Arthur Lubow. The book, critically acclaimed was selected as a "Finalist" for the 2021 International Book Award.

Not content to rest on his laurels, Arthur has recently co-authored, “After the Race, A Tale of Two Olympians” (Amazon) along with Alec Sokolow of “Toy Story” fame.

“After the Race” is the true story of a mutual friend, Peter Bos, who rowed for Navy in the eight oared event in the 1960 Olympics. Germany won the gold in that event. Peter had become friendly with one of the German oarsmen (Kraft) who gave Peter his rowing jersey. Many years later, Peter found that jersey, was able to find Kraft’s address and mailed the Jersey back to him so that he might be able to give it to his own child. This rekindled an old acquaintainship, becoming a strong friendship and, joined by two others, they entered and won the senior (over 80) world rowing championship.

Admiral Mike Mullin, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has this to say about the book. “A wonderful story, spectacularly illustrated for children and their parents and grand parents. It creates a beacon of hope in

these times of great division... This is a truly remarkable book.”

Your faithful scribe, PB