

HERMIT HERALD

VOL. 1 ISSUE 99

FEB. 8, 2021

QUOTE FOR THE DAY

“There may be said to be two classes of people in the world; those who constantly divide the people of the world into two classes, and those who do not. Both classes are extremely unpleasant to meet socially.” Robert Benchley

DIVIDED? BIG TIME !

According to a Pew poll, in 1999, “ improving the educational system topped the list of priorities for both Republicans and Democrats, and four of the top five issues for Republicans were listed among the Democrats’ top five issues as well.”

Ten years later, Pew found, “In the wake of the financial crisis, three issues (jobs, economy

and terrorism) topped the list among both Republicans and Democrats.”

Columnist, Jonah Goldberg, points out that, “As of 2019 there was not one overlapping priority between the top five priorities for Democrats and those of Republicans.” Goldberg goes on to note that Trump’s legislative agenda was largely dedicated to giving Republicans what they wanted. “It looked deeply partisan because it was. In a country where there is a lot of consensus about what to do, it’s easy for a president to pick an issue that’s popular with both parties. It’s harder when few such issues exist.”

Divided, as we are, President Biden has plowed ahead with a historically high number of Executive Orders and is getting increasingly strong push back on a large number of them: the Keystone XL pipeline cancellation; Permitting transgender women to compete against biological women in sports and reversing immigration policy are just three, but all are lightening rods.

For conservatives, President Biden's latest edict, "catch and release" on illegal immigrants is just an absurdity. These immigrants, once captured, are not being returned to their home countries, they are being released in the United States to have their status acted upon at some future time - sounds like, "Find me if you can", and the country picks up another 1,000 illegal aliens.

1.9 TRILLION DOLLAR RELIEF PACKAGE

The reader may have wondered why that isn't listed above, with president Biden's other controversial moves. Well, that's because it's divisive with the Senate, but not with the people. President Biden said, just the other day that, while he would prefer to engender unity with the citizenry and Senate, the former was the real goal and the latter? Unity in the Senate is essentially a luxury - no support? No problem - just push it through via "Reconciliation" - majority vote. For the conservatives, here's the bad news: the latest Quinnipiac poll reflects that more than two-thirds of Americans support Mr. Biden's coronavirus relief package and as reported by

columnist, Giovanni Russonello, “64% of Republicans support \$1,400 stimulus checks to individuals.” He goes on to note that in the same poll, “64% of Americans said the G.O.P. was moving in the wrong direction, including an overwhelming 70% of independents and 30% of Republican partisans.”

You know where this is going when Janet Yellen, Treasury Secretary, who, unlike any of the politicians involved, has spent her entire adult life steeped in the intricacies of economics, comes out strongly supporting the \$1.9 trillion relief package. She says, “I would expect if this package is passed we would get back to full employment next year.” And, further, “I’ve spent many years studying inflation, and I can tell you we have the tools to deal with that risk if it materializes.”

It’s looking like Senator Manchin (D) may have his way, as indications are that the \$15/hour minimum wage may be taken out of the relief bill, but it will be by no means dead and will be addressed at a later date.

As noted above, the polls indicate a lot of problems for Republicans, especially related to their resistance on the relief bill. A problem with one of their major objections is the many billions of dollars being allocated for bailing out the major blue cities, which have been fiscally so mismanaged, not recently, but for decades. The problem with this resistance is, not that anger at the failed Democratic administrations is not justified, but to deny this life line is to hurt the citizenry of these cities, all for the satisfaction of humiliating their ineffectual leaders.

So, all of the foregoing, polls, etc. seem to put the Republicans in a difficult situation- right? Not so. America remains a pretty stable country, lunatic fringes notwithstanding. What conservatives have warned about from the very beginning was that Biden was the, "Trojan Horse." He sold himself to the voters as a centrist and turns out to be nothing other than a vehicle for the ultra progressives, receiving daily, "atta boys" from Senators Sanders, Warren and, in the Congress, AOC. (just a side note - how amazing that the world recognizes this "I was scared for my life" while no where

near the Capitol incursion of Jan 6th, neophyte, by only her initials – kinda like Lady Gaga).

The deal with the conservatives is to have the electorate recognize that, in no way does president Biden have anything close to a mandate. He was elected by virtue of the economy falling into the tank due to the pandemic, and a very real dislike for the personal behaviors of former president Trump – not because of his programs and policies. The conservatives are almost hoping for the Democrats to invoke the “Nuclear Option”, that is, the doing away with the 60 vote Senate filibuster. Yes, if the Democrats were to do so, they could pass any legislation they wished to in the next two years, the conservatives recognizing (at least in their own minds) that this country is a long way from embracing ultra left wing socialism.

ANOTHER HOT BUTTON – EDUCATION

Turns out that the teacher’s unions around the country gave about 98.5% of their political contributions to Mr. Biden and 1.5% to Mr. Trump. Even though that does not include

college teachers (mostly non-unionized) kind of explains why teaching today is so liberal leaning. Anyway, the CDC gives the all clear for children to return to the class rooms. The teachers don't like that. Mr Biden, always an advocate for, "follow the science" sides with the teachers - wonder why?

\$50,000, GUARANTEED FUTURE DEM VOTES

Great idea, what's not to like if you are in college saddled with all that debt? Wipe out \$50,000 of my debt and I'll follow you into a volcano. But, wait a minute, has anyone thought this out? Here are the questions:

Is this just for students and recent graduates who are indebted? What about Waldo who graduated five years ago and just made his last loan payment? And, how about Veronica who is not going to college for another four years, or her younger brother, Wilbur, who doesn't go until 2030- are they all to get a \$50,000 forgiveness? How about this one - Mom and dad have been able to pay the bill, but when they see that junior can get a \$50K write off, they make him borrow instead.

And then there are the forever needy colleges. They may be posting tuition, room and board of \$70,000, but very few pay the full freight. Large discounts are available depending on the applicant and family finances. Suddenly, colleges become aware that every student will have \$50K of debt forgiveness. So Chester receives his next year's bill, "Dear Chester, As you know, we've been giving you a great break, charging only \$45,000 when our published rate is \$70,000. Due to our steadily increasing costs, this coming year we must bill you \$55,000." Finance officer's note to file - "really cool deal for Rip Off U., we'll grab off \$40K of his \$50K freebie over four years."

How about this instead - the only people to get \$50K forgiven (or let's make it \$60K) are those who go to work to the benefit of the country for two years (salaried, yes - but for the benefit of the country - military, peace corps, community help projects etc.) Unlike the world many of us grew up in - too much today is all about me, me, me.

THE RECENTLY AWOKENED OCHS FAMILY

From the New York Times family that has run the newspaper since its earliest days dating to 1851 comes some of their newfound wokefulness. As the reader is surely aware by this time, at the Times, blacks are now only referred to as Blacks, whites are whites and browns are browns. Even the Rev. Jesse Jackson ridicules this.

Further, the Times, initially, relished in the 1619 project they supported which was roundly criticized by many historians for linking the country's founding and success to the evils of the slave trade.

Turns out that the "woke" folks not affiliated with the NY Times are looking around for any Ochs family statues, schools or concert halls bearing their name. Columnist, Michael Goodwin informs us, "The NY Times patriarch, Adolph Ochs, the current publisher's great-great grandfather was a Confederate sympathizer and contributed to the Stone Mountain (Confederate) memorial in Georgia. He opposed, 'negro suffrage' and his mother supported slavery... In addition, two members

of the extended Ochs-Sulzberger family were slaveholders, one of whom was also a slave trader. "Great to be "woke" isn't it?

Your faithful scribe, PB