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QUOTE FOR THE DAY

“All the king’s horses and all the king’s men couldn’t get McAuliffe elected again.” Your scribe, with apologies to Lewis Carroll.

ENORMOUS:

That’s what it is dear readers: Obama, Biden, Harris can’t get this heavily democratic state of Virginia to re-elect the former governor, Terry McAuliffe who was hugely favored just a few months ago.

And, on top of that, New Jersey, a state where incumbent governor, Murphy, had a 20 point lead just a couple of months ago, and a state which Biden won by 16 points, was only able to eke out a one percentage point win.

What's going on here other than very dark storm clouds for the democrats at the mid terms next November?

Here's what your scribe hears and sees coming across multi media sources. No, it isn't just about Critical Race Theory being taught in K-12 at public schools against the objection of parents. McAuliffe, by the way, says it was never taught in the schools- a huge lie- uncovered by written school policy procedures.

No, what it's really all about is the silent majority- independents, republicans and, now, numerous moderate democrats rebelling because they have been cowed into silence by arch liberals within the party. The fact of the matter is that the vast, vast majority of white Americans are not racist and are no more culpable for the plight of our black citizenry than a thirty year old in Germany is culpable for the Holocaust.

As a country, we have been inundated with charges of "white privilege", "systemic racism", "structural racism", "Critical Race

Theory”, “Cancel culture”, “micro aggression”, “white supremacy” and “white rage” to name a few. All to what end? It’s making the country more divisive than ever.

How does this name calling/ labeling help the cause of anyone? Does anyone really want to pursue “cancel culture”? Twelve of our presidents had slaves, and, yes, it is taught and decried as a wrong in our schools. But, starting with George Washington, we would have to rename tens of thousands of schools, colleges, streets, buildings and parks, all to what end?

Does it make the lives of minorities any better; to hang the mantle of shame/guilt on whites 200 years after the grievous wrongs that were previously done? Or, is the major issue, as black professor, Dr Shelby Steele, points out, the fact that only 17% of blacks graduate high school, schools that are none too great to begin with, and 83% of blacks are growing up in single parent (mostly mothers) homes.

The majority of Republicans, independents and, now a lot of moderate Democrats, realize that the push for these accusatory issues come

from liberals within the Democratic establishment. This was a major driver in last Tuesday's vote movement towards Republicans across the country.

The NY Times, on November 4th, had article after article explaining the Democrat losses. It's inflation - it's choked supply lines - it's the too slow recovery from Covid 19 - it's unhappiness over immigration - and on and on.

Unlike MIT, which caved to some protestors who didn't want a speaker on campus because they didn't like his views, the NY Times at least has the fortitude to have as one of their regular "Opinion page" contributors, the conservative, Pulitzer Prize winning columnist, Bret Stephens.

Regardless your political affiliation this is mandatory reading. For some, a reaffirmation. For others, infuriating, but at least you'll have a perspective as to why there is so much push back.

Stephens writes, “The way in which the controversy over Critical Race Theory (CRT) is treated by much of the left as either much ado about an obscure scholarly discipline or, alternatively, a beneficent and necessary set of teachings about the past and present of systemic racism in America.”

“But, CRT is neither obscure nor anodyne. It is according to many of its leading theoreticians, a ‘politically committed movement’ that often explicitly rejects notions of merit, objectivity, color-blindness and neutrality of law, among other classically liberal concepts.”

“That’s no reason to ban teaching it, or any other way of looking at the world. But it is dishonest to argue that it is anything less than ideologically radical, intensely racialized and deliberately polarizing. It is even more dishonest to suggest that it exists only in academic cloisters. We live in an era of ubiquitous race-based ‘affinity groups’, incessant allegations of white supremacy, and pervasive censorship in everything that can be said and documentaries that can be watched, to jokes that can be laughed at.”

“No wonder the debate over CRT influenced pedagogies in public schools- which liberals insist don’t even exist in the state’s public schools, although they clearly do- had such a galvanic effect on the Virginia race. It exposed the myth that the illiberal currents at play in the United States today are solely a Republican phenomenon. They are not.”

“It’s fair to debate which kind of illiberalism is worse. But the Democrats’ political problem is either dishonesty about the kind of country they want, a lack of self-awareness, or some combination of both. An America in which group identity takes precedence over individual merit, racial categories become moral categories, success based on achievement is denigrated as, ‘privilege’ based on ancestry, blind justice is attacked as systemically biased, and independent thinking risks being treated as heresy will cause America to eventually cease to be a free, fair and just country.”

.... “The tragedy of the Democratic Party may yet be its loss of nerve against its in-house extremists. Whether it’s this week or next

year, the political penalties are likely to be steep.”

CODA

Just finished watching the funeral of Colin Powell. Wow! What America could be.

SO HOW'S THAT CLIMATE CONTROL THING WORKING FOR YOU, MR. PRESIDENT?

OMG, the president travels Europe in an 85 car cavalcade, 400 private jets fly into the COP 26 climate conference, no one can embarrass our climate czar, John Kerry, to the point of giving up his private jet for commercial flights, the three countries most responsible for methane emissions refuse to sign the methane reduction pledge, leaders of Russia and China are no-shows and, just a small footnote, China burns more coal per year than the rest of the world combined. Not to be discouraged, I read there have been some fantastic dinner parties.

On a truly serious note, major financial companies, to help with climate objectives, have pledged to reduce the financial assistance

they have historically given fossil fuel producers, but that creates a real conundrum. Just as quitting smoking, cold turkey, is extremely painful, so is stepping away from fossil fuels. While emphasizing the efforts to, “Go green”, the president finds himself the next day urging OPEC to pump more oil because of the world wide spiraling prices. Of necessity, fossil fuel reduction must go hand in hand with matching new green energy production, or the world is going to have a major financial crisis on top of the climate crisis.

BOOK CORNER

Our fellow reader and long time friend, the Rev. Ernest Hunt, has just published his eleventh book, “Cling and Wait” (Amazon). Ernie graduated Stanford University with two degrees, then the Episcopal Seminary in Austin, Texas, followed by a Doctorate at Princeton Theological Seminary. Included in his career in the ministry, Ernie served for ten years as the Bishop of the American Cathedral in Paris. In retirement, he has written some great mystery/crime novels. “Cling and Wait”

takes a thought provoking turn as you will read in the abbreviated critique. I highly recommend.

Racial discrimination has always been an issue in the US. The line between black and white seems to be a never-ending line. According to *New York Times*, the recent "Black Lives Matter" protest took on the highest peak when half a million people turned out in nearly 550 places across the United States. With this, "Black Live Matters" may be considered the largest movement in US history. Taking aside the race, isn't human life itself matter among all?

Ernest Hunt published a book entitled *Cling and Wait*. The characters in this book fly to New York City after the protest and are shocked by damages one by rioting. "Black Lives Matter" matters but violence and destruction of property in the process of Justice becomes another form of injustice. Martin Luther King Jr inspires the book's content. He had it right that nonviolence is the most powerful form of justice-seeking, according to the Judeo-Christian tradition, and he gave his life to support that premise.

The book also focuses on the challenge of condemning George Floyd's death to use Dr. King's approach and be less Marxist in today's American society. One point also brings into the perspective of Sarah Shapes' leadership in the Black Lives Matters protest.

AND, FINALLY

Dear readers, there are just some folks out there who need more understanding and, perhaps, better meds. I'll never forget, decades ago, when the author of the comic strip, "Dick Tracy", decided to retire, he contrived to have Dick Tracy die in the last strip. Some die-hard fans were so upset and believing in the fantasy that they wrote to enquire if they could claim the body, or at the very least obtain the

address of his final resting place. Well, here's the latest version:

Q anon had a big rally in Dallas just a couple of days ago. Here's their latest theory: John Kennedy Jr. supposedly died in a plane crash 20 years ago. Not so, says the latest Q anon theory. He is alive and will re-invigorate Mr. Trump's drive to reclaim the presidency, and will be his vice presidential running mate in 2024.

JEEZ! You can't make this stuff up.

Your faithful scribe,

PB