

March 19, 2010

Weekly Update

Greetings from Tyler,

It's hard to say what percentage of Americans realize it, but this is the most critically pivotal moment in our modern history. At stake is the philosophy on which our nation was founded, our constitutionally mandated system of checks and balances and our God-ordained freedom and prosperity.

Many see this as nothing short of an end-run around the U.S. Constitution being attempted in an effort to put the entirety of America's healthcare system under government micro-management. If you pay even scant attention to the news surrounding the near chaos of what's going on in the nation's capitol right now, you know that the clear language of Article 1, Section 7 is expected to be breached by the House of Representatives if they "deem" to have passed a bill never presented for a vote.

"Oh, Washington politicians have routinely engaged in such shenanigans," is the oft repeated refrain. But this time the very definition of America is at stake. Only recently it has come to light that the entire system of financing college education will also come exclusively under government control if this thing goes through. It is a departure from American tradition, to say the very least. Emotions are at a fever pitch over the prospect of expanding government power and control into the most personal aspects of life. Then there is that perennial hot button issue of taxpayer moneys being used to fund abortion which has also come to the fore as a factor in this debate.

I came across a heart-pounding commentary published in today's Washington Times. It contains the suggestion that "high crimes and misdemeanors" are being committed in breaching the Constitution, suggesting that the subject should be an issue this fall.

The Speaker of the House said today that she is praying to St. Joseph, the patron saint of workers, "to help benefit the worker, and that's exactly what this healthcare bill will do." So let's get this straight. They're going to pray to a dead man "deemed" to be a saint by a weird holy man, also dead, and that will bring about utopian social justice?

I've got a better idea. Don't call your congressman. Rather, let's collectively contact the One who inspired our founders, who shepherded the miracle of our Constitution and ask His indulgence on behalf of our nation. Even that's not a guarantee of immediate intervention, but it's our best hope. We may well be in for even greater tests. As a popular commentator said yesterday, this will not decide the outcome of the "war" for the soul of our nation. But it is D-day.

We've prepared an article for the GTA website on the unbelievable current breach in U.S. – Israel relations. It is disheartening and completely unnecessary, as you will

see. You may be inclined to wonder once again what's become of the character of our great nation. Character that until recently we took for granted.

The priest abuse scandal in Europe is hardly going away. The wave of victims describing hideous accounts of child abuse imaginable is being likened to a "tsunami" by a woman authorized by the "church" to make sure this type of thing doesn't continue to occur. The pope himself is implicated to the degree that, as head of the "holy office" he is reported to have encouraged or enforced a code of silence in dealing with these wretched incidents, too horrible to recount. The policy forbade contacting civil authorities or media. Additionally, the current pope was responsible for transferring one priest convicted of molestation into a comfortable "exile" for "rehabilitation" where he was allowed almost immediately to begin working with young kids again. The moral of this story, steer clear of holy robes and religious headgear, period.

The Garner Ted Armstrong telecast this week was on the 144,000. It pulled 308 requests with ninety nine first time contacts. It's a nervous time for the country.

Thankfully, we have the Sabbath. Mark

U.S. Relations with Israel Worst Ever

In the face of undeniable reality, hope springs eternal that third party negotiators can beg, bribe or intimidate Israel and the Palestinians into accepting some formula for peace. And what's the undeniable reality, you might ask? That would be the religious/educational indoctrination of generations of Palestinians that requires them to hate Jews fervently and plot to kill them any way possible, even if it means strapping on a bomb and blowing themselves up amid as many innocent bystanders as possible. Then there's that other minor hurdle. The Palestinians led by Hamas, to this day refuse to accept Israel's existence.

American diplomats are obliged to put that inconvenient fact out of their minds and pretend there's some magic formula to do with land for peace and two sovereign states living side by side. Surely such a formula can be imposed, they reason, even if it would require peacekeeping troops standing guard between the "sovereign" states. It would be wrong, political correctness dictates, to note that history bears no record of a Palestinian state, or that the Palestinians in Gaza remain in perpetual bloody dispute as to whom should govern them, let alone how.

Postures assumed and statements issued by Washington and the State Department over the past year have lead many to wonder just whose side the United States is on in the never-ending standoff over what should become of Jerusalem, and what amounts to a world wide *jihad* against western culture. The tactic of sending U.S. emissaries to act as a liaison between parties who refuse to speak directly has been a complete bust. Despite dozens of missions, numerous attempts at resurrecting the “peace process” have failed and embarrassed those officially dispatched to achieve the impossible.

The current situation is discouraging, not from the standpoint that there is no progress in the “peace process” but rather what is happening to U.S. relations with Israel. There was no reason for optimism regarding the non-existent “peace process”, nor has there been. Rather, the U.S. Vice President and the State Department decided to take great umbrage at something that occurred as a complete coincidence last week, something that should have had no bearing one way or the other on any meetings that may have been planned.

The recent upset that supposedly justifies the current historic low point in U.S. – Israel relations came from the approval of a housing development in an area that was not even subject to “land for peace” negotiations. Furthermore, the “announcement” such as it was, amounted to no more than zoning approval by the Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee that had absolutely nothing to do with VP Biden’s recent visit. Nevertheless, the State Department including Sec. of State Hillary Clinton herself, called the incident an “insult to the United States.”

The flap resulted in the L.A. times writing that the incident, “drew criticism from Washington in language rarely directed even at Iran or North Korea.” That report, which mirrored numerous others, included news that the Sec. of State “upbraided” Prime Minister Netanyahu. Now, Israel is falling all over itself with apologies, declaring that, “Our relationship with the Americans is above all else” as the Israeli Minister of the Interior said last week. At this time when our alliance with Israel is arguably more important than ever, it’s beginning to look like that sentiment is a one way street.