

Yankee Steve's Column

for the Week of December 11, 2008

[The column on Federalism has been delayed until December 18, 2008.]

Blind Date with Infamy

There is a rather special woman who broadcasts the nightly television news for CBS. Her name is Katie Couric.

Ms. Couric is quite remarkable if only because she has never been able to hide her hostility towards conservatives. I say that she is remarkable because this has not caused her removal, at least not as yet. It must be that she has the approval of her superiors. I am certain that they knew what they were getting when in 2006 she moved from NBC to CBS.

Like me, are you curious about Couric? What qualifications does this woman have that would earn her a \$15 million annual salary that would make King Croesus jealous? Here is a woman who remains undistinguished even in a day when broadcast journalism has reached an all-time low.

I have begun to wonder if Ms Couric has been hired because some like her perky smile and short skirts or because she is not a man. What will she do on February 17, 2009 when wrinkles can't be disguised with new digital telecasting? Having no talent to speak of, this may be her ill-fated date with destiny.

Maybe CBS hired KC because unlike her predecessor Dan Rather she seems immune to controversy. Take for example the way in which she boldly maintained to having written an article which was pilfered from the *Wall Street Journal*. After the disclosure she just went on her way as if nothing had happened. The ghost writer/producer took the blame, but Katie knows better.

Ms. Couric lacks that indefinable something which creates confidence. In one single sitting, while she reads scripted comments on a teleprompter, her lesser paid colleagues and she present us with a collapsing economy, wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, a failed presidency, and news about our next president who happens to be a Marxist. It can be overwhelming! So what can the former cheerleader from Virginia do or say that can interpret all of this for us?

I ask you, does anyone in America really think that her best opinions have not been gleaned from someone else?

Encounter with Decency

Recently Sarah Palin, the governor of Alaska, a woman with a higher security clearance than any U.S. Senator, sat for an interview conducted by Couric. From my observations, KC was not able to hide her contempt for the Republican vice presidential candidate.

Why? Governor Palin is too wholesome, too decent, too good, and too much non-conformist for the likes of Katie Couric. Here is a case where someone is not objected to because of her politics, but because she lives like a Christian. How dare she be so wholesome? How dare she look at her Down syndrome baby and say, "I see perfection."

A question was asked during the interview that the former beauty contestant and mother of five failed to handle correctly. For a moment she was caught off-guard. An Alaskan outdoors person like Palin should have known that East Coast Liberals may not know how to hunt, but they do like to set traps for conservatives. However in all fairness to Couric, the question needed to be asked. It went something like this: "Which Supreme Court decision disturbed you the most?"

This was followed by a blank stare that was shown repeatedly on the "Late Show" with David Letterman. Apparently Mr. Letterman took it upon himself to decide who should become president. Not having any word skills worth mentioning, he has had to resort to ridicule. He should keep in mind that ridicule is a two-way street. His time is coming.

The Right Answer

I know how I would have answered that question which caught the Governor unprepared. I would have gone for the jugular vein of Socialism.

I would have said: **Wickard v. Filburn [1942]**. That Supreme Court decision reminds me of the Persians invading Greece. King Xerxes greased the palms of the priests at the shrine of Delphi so that the Greeks would believe that god Apollo had sided with the invaders.

This time President Franklin Roosevelt was the invading conqueror, encroaching where he shouldn't go, defiling what Americans hold sacred. FDR, a master manipulator, managed to secure a 9-0 vote from our highest appellate court. Roscoe C. Filburn a small Ohio farmer must have felt like Dred Scott with Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture and Roosevelt's administration against him.

The decision was handed down on November 9, 1941. This is also a day that should live on infamy along with December 7, 1941. It was on November date that an American citizen, who only wanted to feed his family during wartime, was robbed of his Constitutional rights by nine men posing as jurists.

Of course, none of this could have happened had the Congress been properly represented by conservatives. The whole of it was given over to Democrats, the erstwhile followers of Eugene Debs whose Marxist ideas had by that time passed from the Socialist party to the Democrat

party. Restrictions on commerce, assembly, free speech, etc., always come from the left side, the Socialist side.

Down on the Farm

Just like Lenin and Stalin, Roosevelt passed agricultural acts and unfortunately Filburn ran headlong into his second Agricultural Adjustment Act.

Socialists do not believe in a free market where supply and demand determine the price of goods. But does that matter? It does, because nothing is permitted to stand in the way of Socialists, not even the U.S. Constitution. If need be, they will bend the Constitution out of shape in order to make it read the way they think it should.

In 1941 Mr. Filburn planted 12 acres of wheat more than the second Agricultural Adjustment Act allowed. This yielded for him 239 bushels of wheat. Filburn did not sell a single bushel of wheat in the open market. The government operated by Socialists fined him 49 cents a bushel. Filburn went to court because he knew that the **federal government did not have the authority to regulate the production and consumption of wheat when it was *not* marketed.**

Regrettably Filburn encountered what is commonly called a kangaroo court. The justices to a man were in the pocket of Roosevelt. But why was this so important to FDR and his Socialist kin? It all has to do with what is called the “central planning” of the economy. Central planning of the economy, according to Ludwig von Mises, is a synonym for Socialism and Roosevelt was a Socialist first and last.

Filburn’s bushels may have seemed trivial, but when farmers consumed their own grain in a free country it affected the overall market price of wheat that Roosevelt wanted to control. If you let the market set the price you touch a sensitive nerve in Socialists. Von Mises says that Socialists will even resort to force in order to control the price of materials. He adds, **“Planning and capitalism are utterly incompatible. Within a system of planning production is conducted according to the government’s orders, not according to the plans of capitalists and entrepreneurs eager to profit by best filling the wants of consumers.”**

Now back to Katie Couric. Does that answer your question Ms Couric? The answer is Wickard v. Filburn. That Supreme Court decision was more important than even the Dred Scott case which touches everyone deeply.

The court could not have cared less for the color of Roscoe Filburn. All that mattered was that the President be allowed to carry on with a Socialist program, even if it meant that the liberties of a free-born American were set to one side. This should concern us because Roosevelt’s alma mater, Harvard University, is the Mecca of Socialism. And we have just learned that Barack Obama has surrounded himself with no less than 20 of its “intellectuals.”

They will not make distinctions based on race either. If African-Americans by voting for Obama thought they would catch a break because they are black, they will be sorely disappointed.

Socialists only see green. All that matters to Socialists like Obama is that they be allowed to plan the economy.

The law of the Socialist is summed up in two words PLAN and OBEY. Socialists plan; we obey.

Ever yours,

Steve Cakouros
oldlineconservative.com