

**Yankee Steve's Column**  
**for the Week of January 20, 2011**

**The Case for the Upper Case**

There is much talk these days about whether some of us should be called republicans with a lower case "r" or Republicans with an upper case "R." Using the lower case is supposed to mean that a voter is more concerned about republicanism than he is with his affiliation with the Republican Party. Implied in this is the idea that the Republican Party and republicanism, as we think of it in America, is not necessarily one and the same thing.

I have to ask, would anyone believe that the Democrats have a better understanding of republicanism? The Democrats are wrong on all issues: abortion, deficits, ecology, education, health care, homosexuality, immigration, marriage, pornography, regulations, socialism, taxes, unions, etc., etc.

This topic of republicanism suggests two questions. Firstly, what is a republic, and secondly, what is a Republican?

A republic is a form of government based on reality and not on wishful thinking. Republican thinkers know that too much power in the hands of too few people will lead to too few freedoms. A favored monarch, a plutocratic body, a military junta, if given power, will with certainty abuse that power. Consequently, a republic places the supreme power of the state in the hands of the people and their appointed representatives.

**Elasticity**

During the same period that America has been a republic, France has had five different republics. The word republic will always be in fashion in France, if not the idea. So I must consider - is America what it was at the beginning? Or has our republic undergone a change?

If he were here now, what would James Madison, the principle architect of the U.S. Constitution, think? In the Federalist Papers #51, Madison distinguishes between a "single republic" and "compound republic." At the urging of Madison, America did in fact become a compound republic because that type of a republic limits the role of government more effectively than a single republic.

A compound republic divides the power of government between the federal government and individual state governments. This means that the states can limit the power of the federal government, and the federal government in turn can limit the power of the states. In that way the power of government itself is limited. And that was and is the goal: to limit the power of government.

That being said, it should be apparent that the left in America have for some time now been trying to change America into a single republic. The left wants to centralize power so that it can wield that power uncontested. Obama even floated the idea of a national police force answerable only to him.

## **Republicans**

The Republican Party began in 1854. It was founded by people who believed in “liberty and justice for all,” and I mean **all**. To begin with it wanted to outlaw slavery. This explains why the majority of Republicans voted in favor of the Civil Rights Act which passed in 1964. That cannot be said of the Democrats.

The strongest resistance to civil rights came from a Democrat Lyndon Baines Johnson. He spent 20 years in Congress trying to defeat the Civil Rights Act which was an idea hatched in the brain of leading Republican Henry Cabot Lodge [circa 1894], and it met with Democrat resistance from day one.

Southern racists never had a better supporter in U.S. Congress than LBJ, a flaming Democrat. Eventually the sly old fox, who stole his senatorial seat by using bribes and counterfeit ballots, saw the handwriting on the wall. **It is one of the ironies of political history that a Democrat who could pronounce “Negro” in such a way that you thought he was using the “N” word signed Civil Rights into law.**

Over time Republicans have become for the most part the business class of America. As such they have a knee-jerk reaction to all attempts to regulate commerce. The left has seized upon this in order to give the impression that Republicans are only concerned about the bottom line. In particular, we are told, the Republicans refuse to sign-off on Obama-care because they don’t care for the little guy. However, Republicans know that it cannot be paid, and it is that simple. Democrats live in a Samuel Pickwick, Esquire’s world where “every day is the first day spring and every heart has a new song to sing.”

Number-crunching Republicans live in the real world. They know that Obama-care will not only increase the federal deficit, it will lead us down the road to bankruptcy. Any suggestion that it Obama-care could be salvaged with some tweaking is madness. Obama-care is fiscal suicide.

If the left wants to shore up Obama-care, it is not out of concern for the average citizen; it is only in their self-interest in re-election.

## **Our Republic Has a Symbol**

For as long as we can remember, I have been reciting the words, “I pledge allegiance to the flag and to the republic for which it stands . . .” The flag stands for, which is to say, it represents the republic. When you see the flag it is supposed to make you think of our republic. That has to

mean that all those left-leaning flag burners that came on the scene in the sixties had rejected our republic because they had rejected its symbol.

The Supreme Court gave this some thought. And on doing so it granted them the permission to desecrate the flag because flag-burning meant no more than this, they were exercising free speech and saying, "I reject this republic."

In a republic where freedom is cherished and protected one has the right to reject republicanism. In a dictatorship one does not have the right to reject dictatorial rule in favor of republicanism. Socrates played the hypocrite when for decades he went around Athens denouncing Athenian democracy in favor of the Spartan dictatorship. If in Sparta, he had praised Athens for so long a time, the Spartans would have sent him packing.

I have a suggestion: all the flag burners should relocate to China and burn its flag; see what happens then!

When I think of the flag burners I could spit. However, there is something worse than flag burners. There are Republicans who are not republicans whose voting record indicates that they are not really defending liberty and who hobnob with the people of the left, the same people who would turn our republic into a single republic so that over time it might become a socialist republic.

Republicans should be aware of the fact that the left will try and use the Tucson murders in order to give the impression that they are the reasonable members of Congress. It has even been suggested that when President Barack Obama gives his state of the Union message that members of both parties should sit together.

Now I not only want to spit, I want to vomit. Can you imagine Nancy Pelosi sitting next to Michele Bachmann, or Harry Reid next to Jim DeMint? There would be something wrong with that picture.

The people on the left love America for what they want it to be. True Republicans love America for what the founders wanted it to be and for what it has been.

### **The Republicans ought to draw line down the middle of the Congressional chamber!**

In doing so they should then plunk themselves down on the right. Republicans conservatives are the real republicans. They know that the left uses the word "republic" but while doing so it empties the word of its real meaning. If that were not so, they would not, year in and year out, show a tendency to limit the freedom of the individual in favor of a more powerful and intrusive government.

Ever yours,

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