

## Yankee Steve's Column

for the Week of November 25, 2010

### Going to Extremes - A Thanksgiving Message

#### First Extreme

I grew up in the South Bronx. In that part of America you were not brought up, you were thrown up. Communities like that are not good; they shrink the soul. You become narrow and mindful only of “numero uno.”

Extreme poverty like extreme wealth does not a good person make.

The way that some people chose to survive in the midst of so much poverty, in what has remained to this day the poorest community in America, was to drape Socialism in the flag. The same teachers who taught me to salute the flag also told me that I have the right to look to the government for assistance. They went beyond the “life, liberty and pursuit of happiness” clause in the *Declaration of Independence*. I was led to believe that I was entitled to prosperity. It was a FDR world, the world of Karl Marx, Barack Obama, and Nancy Pelosi.

Most of the people in that community were born outside of America. They had come to the states from an island in the Caribbean. As soon as they arrived here they were told that the government would take care of them. This explains why poverty persists in the South Bronx to this very day. Ben Franklin was sage when he said that the more the government does for the poor the less they will do for themselves.

The government should live by the people. The people should not live by the government.

#### Second Extreme

English social evolutionist Herbert Spencer [1820-1903] coined a phrase that has been attributed to Charles Darwin. The well-known phrase is “the survival of the fittest.”

Spencer remains popular with those who to one degree or another should be thought of as the “individualist” school. This type of social engineer goes to the opposite extreme of Socialists that like FDR promises voters “a chicken in every pot” or whatever it takes to get elected.

The family of Charles Darwin fairly represents the Individualist school of thought.

The Darwins had the temerity to lobby the British government in order to prevent it from providing emergency inoculations for Britain's poorest during a major health crisis. The Darwin family, cut from the same cloth as the author of the *Origin of Species*, reasoned that the poor would not be destitute if they were not inferior.

Darwin reasoned that to extend mercy to the poor would be the same as if you bred sick horses on purpose. An action of that kind would only weaken the human species which may or may not survive. Upper-class friends of Darwin reasoned with him telling the famous naturalist that some people are poor because of unavoidable circumstances, and that poverty is not a criterion for judging the worth and potential of the individual.

Here we have an irony. Had it had not been for the remarkable and indulgent wife, his cousin Emma, whom Darwin had the good fortune to wed he would have been interned into an institution. Instead, he was allowed to pass his days in relative luxury with her as his nurse.

No one denies of course that much of the time, poverty goes hand in hand with lifestyle. A number of people in America live lifestyles that can only lead to poverty (alcohol, drugs, gambling, etc.) Still and all many people, that have to be classified as living below the poverty line, are said to live circumspect lives. It was the poor in Darwin's England that were the most attentive to religion.

Every year the Boy Scouts of America collect food in my neighborhood in order to brighten some ones' Thanksgiving. Are the Boy Scouts weakening the human race? The ACLU would like you to think so. Be that as it may, money or the lack thereof, is not the basis by which we determine the worth and promise of the individual. Abraham Lincoln grew up in a one-room log cabin in Kentucky.

At all costs we have to avoid two extremes - the creation of a nanny state on the one hand and the refusal on our part to watch out for the poor who are somehow regarded as substandard humans.

With regard to the latter there are people who at this very moment need your assistance. They were put in your path by God. Do not be a Socialist. The Socialist calls on the state to do his charitable work for him by taxing others. In the world of the Socialist, the tax man can force those who have to redistribute their possessions to those who lack those things.

As President Lyndon B. Johnson, a Socialist if ever there was one, said, "We are going to take all the money we think is being unnecessarily spent, and take it from the haves and give it to the have-nots."

God has a better way.

"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full - pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." Luke 6:38 [New Living Translation]

I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving,

Yankee Steve Cakouros [oldlineconservative.com](http://oldlineconservative.com)