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Educating and Activating Christians for Social, Political, and Spiritual Action

September 2018

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Confessions of a Former Democrat

Political parties aren't religious, but one of them is growing darker by the day.

"It is the duty of the clergy to accommodate their discourses to the times, to preach against such sins as are most prevalent, and recommend such virtues as are most wanted..." --John Adams (1754)

During an off-the-record chat with a political reporter some years ago, this writer was asked to offer an example of an exemplary modern-era politician. Not particularly impressed with many of the noted national leaders at the time, I asked if a preferred *statesman* would satisfy his query. After citing a dictionary definition of a statesman, the reporter teased "Are you waiting for a drumroll?"

For the record, a statesman is: *a person who exhibits great wisdom and ability in directing the affairs of a government or in dealing with important public issues.* The person who came to mind at that moment was the City of Everett's very own Senator Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson (1912-1983).

"But, but, the late Scoop Jackson was a Democrat," came the response. "You're a Republican. You're the chairman for your county Republican Party. How does that work?"

Oops! Only that reporter has known this guarded, shameful secret all these years. But in light of all the hostile accusers of the brethren that Democrats are currently bringing forth, it's better to get the skunk on the table right now, seek your understanding, and try to move on.

Background: This writer was an elected delegate to the 1972 Democrat convention in Seattle, representing a Phinney Ridge-area precinct which (appropriately enough) included the Woodland Park Zoo! I had been elected by local Democrat neighbors to support the candidacy of Scoop Jackson for President of the United States.

According to *Wikipedia*, Jackson's "political beliefs were characterized by support of civil rights, human rights, and safeguarding the environment, but with an equally strong commitment to oppose totalitarianism in general, and communism in particular."¹

As a military veteran, the major issue of the day for this writer was the war in Viet Nam. Scoop supported our troops and believed it was essential for the United States to prevail.

In 1984, President Reagan awarded Jackson posthumously, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, calling him "one of the greatest lawmakers of our century." Reagan further stated:

"Scoop Jackson was convinced that there's no place for partisanship in foreign and defense policy. He used to say, 'In matters of national security, the best politics is no politics.' His sense of bipartisanship was not only natural and complete; it was courageous. He wanted to be President, but I think he must have known that his outspoken ideas on the security of the Nation would deprive him of the chance to be his party's nominee in 1972 and '76.

“Still, he would not cut his convictions to fit the prevailing style. I'm deeply proud, as he would have been, to have Jackson Democrats serve in my administration. I'm proud some...have found a home here.” ^{ibid}

Besides the broad-based support from appreciative veterans, Jackson also received substantial financial help from Jewish-Americans who admired his pro-Israel views. But, ultimately, it was Scoop's support of the Vietnam War effort that resulted in hostility from the left wing of the Democratic Party. His chief rival, George McGovern, was very popular in Hollywood and on college campuses due to his call for the U.S. to accept defeat and bring our troops home.

While most Jackson delegates to that 1972 state convention were readily identifiable due to (our) appropriate business or business-casual attire, the McGovern delegates were largely arrayed in much more casual adornments including cut-offs and tennis shoes.

Looking back, a personal high point was being recruited to deliver a nominating speech. A low was the perpetual shouting from the inordinately rude McGovern delegates that continued all day until *sine die* late into the evening. Following the inevitable selection of a slate of McGovern delegates to attend the forthcoming national nominating convention, this writer was struck with the thought that maybe the Democrat Party was no longer a good fit.

So is this particular communication intended to disparage the ideas, platforms, and policies of the Democrat Party. YES--ABSOLUTELY! For years we have cautiously but meticulously presented side-by-side comparisons of the platforms of America's two largest political parties. The differences are night and day.

Democrats have fought effectively and successfully to remove all traces of God from America's classrooms, courthouses and football fields. With God out of sight, the door has been kicked open for younger Americans to embrace evolution, abortion, homosexual unions, euthanasia, recreational drug use, gender dysphoria, and next up—"intergenerational intimacy," a new by-word in academia for pedophilia!

SO WHERE IS THE CHURCH? The Book of Revelation chapters 2-3, contain both encouragements and warnings to seven specific New Testament-era congregations in Asia Minor, planted through the ministries of the first Apostles. But, notable Bible expositors, past and present, have suggested these revelations also likely address seven specific time-periods including **end times**. Should that be so, the last representation of the Church before the return of Christ, pictures a body of "believers" who are largely... LUKEWARM!

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked... (Rev 3:15-17)

Too frequently, we hear that what our children are taught every day in school, and experience on their iPhones, is not touched in church with a ten-foot pole. Why is that? Has the Church become just a warm and cozy place for members and visitors to hang out on weekends?

After watching the U.S. Senate Judiciary hearings yesterday, it is shockingly apparent that America is under attack—from within! More than two centuries ago, a founding father warned:

"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion." --President John Adams, Oct 11, 1798

Christians, lets open the doors, sound the trumpet, and call the Church to prayer—before it's too late.

Rick Forcier

¹ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_M._Jackson