

## Thanksgiving Dinner 2019

It is Thanksgiving night just a few minutes from Black Friday and it is a quiet time to reflect on the conversation at the end of a great dinner. I use conversation in the broadest of terms as it was just the soapbox of a republican and a democrat asserting their support and non-support of the president. We have been friends for a long time and will continue to be even though we see things, in a political way, through different prisms. So, let me address the things we both agree on.

Both sides of congress are corrupt and really do not address what is important to everyday folks. The opioid crisis, is not being solved. We both agree that giving free needles and drugs to addicts is wrong. If you are giving free needles and drugs why not give it to diabetics instead. His position is self-serving, but I agree with him. Drug addicts getting a free shoot-up is an insult to hard working people who have to pay for their drugs, needles and testing kits. Then again how do you think the police feel when they have spent their career arresting people just to see their mayor and DA coddle them.

Then there is the issuance of Narcan to keep those who overdose from meeting their maker. Now neither one of us wants to see someone die, but why are we paying for this? There are children and senior citizens who desperately need drugs to meet their everyday illness. Senior citizens either skip eating or skip the prescribed drug as they cannot do both. Yet some dope head can get a second or third chance to mainline and get saved. We both agree. Let me reiterate he is a democrat, not a liberal.

Having the government manage healthcare is not a realistic approach to solving the cost of healthcare. Most everyone sees the cost of healthcare insurance as the main problem, it is a key problem, but it is not the only problem. We differ on how to solve it, but we agree the government has failed to address the problem. Healthcare insurance premiums has increased by close to 400% since 2010. Add the increase in the deductible and copay and insurance is now equal to mortgage payments. Is coverage better? May be to some but not in our world. Now let's be fair both of us are now on Medicare, but not our family members. We have to pay the premiums for some of those family members.

He is vehement in his anger at the pharmaceutical companies and their lobbyist. My frustration pales against his anger. He feels that they have bought congress and nothing will ever get done. I have presented a solution of tracking drug sales through the government to many in congress, HHS and the Trump family. Sadly, nobody cared enough to even acknowledge the plan. It is a functioning plan that is already used by DOD in another area of government. My friend may be right on the level of lobbyist influence.

Now my friend had no idea of any changes in Obamacare made by the president. He actually declined to believe the president did anything since Obamacare was not repealed. He did not know the Penalty Tax for not enrolling in Obamacare was eliminated which has led to less expensive insurance coverage being available. He did not know that CMS is pushing to post the cost of prescriptions on the internet. He is only aware of those things MSNBC and CNN tell him. Keep this last sentence in mind.

On immigration we have common ground that illegal aliens should not be allowed. They should enter the country the right way and pay the fees to become a citizen like legal immigrants. He finds it hard to believe that the "children in cages" was started under Obama, that Obama deported more illegals than Bush or Trump, that Obama built any part of the wall between Mexico and the USA. He does recognize

the severity of human trafficking, particularly in TX. Once again, we have common ground. Would he build a wall to stop it? He hesitated and felt if it would stop it, yes. My question was do you think building the wall would encourage human trafficking or at least stem the flow? How about drug and gun running across the border? Would the wall at least cut it down? Yes to both questions. Again, we could vote on how to fix the crime problem.

Now to the parts where there is no middle ground. Gun control is a huge problem with my democratic friend. He sees no reason why a hunter needs a rapid-fire rifle for hunting. I asked him to define "rapid fire". His explanation of holding a finger on the trigger and shooting multiple bullets, defies my prior attempts to educate him on firearms. I once again tell him those weapons are not available to private citizens. I then explain, truthfully for at least the third time this year, as to what a semi-automatic is and how it functions. This is not what he has learned from TV.

He thinks only single bullet load guns should be legal. Think pre-1800. When I go through the stats issued by the FBI that only 2% of all homicides are with a rifle and that more people die from blunt force instruments he is unbelieving. Has he too lost faith in the FBI? Not really, it is just that it does not match what he learns from MSNBC and CNN. When I present that there are millions of weapons owned by millions of citizens and they are not committing crimes why would you overturn the constitution to take their firearms. Many of his friends and relatives, own firearms. He is afraid that at any moment somebody could become a mental case and shoot someone. He is sincere in that statement and he is the one not drinking. So, you take away everyone's firearms just in case someone flips his gourd? How about if a person runs them down with a car, do we take cars away from everyone? Or do we just take it away from the guilty party.

The only common ground we have in gun control is the mental health component. NICS does have a "checkbox" but it is useless. There is no consistent method for defining, reporting or adjudicating the mental health of an individual. The Red Flag laws being implemented by many states are constitutionally questionable. The intention may have some legitimacy, but stepping on multiple Bill of Rights is not the way to satiate the gun control demons.

Our last subject before pie was President Trump himself and the democratic contenders. We both agree that Biden is not an option. He pointed out that he believes Biden has dementia. He & I both agree Jill should call him home. The only other democrat that rung a bell was Bloomberg. Remember my friend's stance on gun control? We both agree he was an okay mayor for NYC. My friend did not know that Bloomberg was once a republican and donated heavily to the republicans. I reminded him that Trump was a democrat that donated heavily to the democrats. Hmmm.

Now to Trump and impeachment. He thinks he broke the law and he should be impeached. He could not name what law, but MSNBC and CNN said he did, along with Adam Schiff. The witnesses in the hearing and the Mueller report said he broke the law. Now let me also note that he did not read any part of the Mueller Report, he did not read the call transcript and he did not watch any of the Schiff-head Kangaroo Hearing. Yep I am biased. Now I read the Mueller Report, Part 1 and 2. I read the July 25<sup>th</sup> call transcript. I watched every day of the hearing. I recorded them on CSPAN. I did not need anyone to tell me what somebody said. I could read and listen for myself. The Mueller Report and his performance before congress exonerated not only Trump, but also his campaign workers of colluding with Trump. Says so in black and white. Part 2 of the Mueller Report are 10 or so statements by lawyers implying there could be an issue, but they could not commit to it.

The July 25<sup>th</sup> call transcript was benign. President Zelensky of Ukraine said there was no undue influence exerted by Trump, is Schiff-head calling President Zelensky a liar? Yes, he mentioned Biden's public performance of extorting Ukraine by withholding funds unless they fired a prosecutor who was investigating corruption at the firm where his son Biden was a board member. Is Joe and Hunter above the law?

All of my breath in delivering the above information was wasted. I was not MSNBC or CNN and I could not be right. His allegation that I was just repeating Fox News was a desperate attempt to dismiss my position, even though he knows and accepts that I do read and research this stuff on my own. I am sending him my copy of the July25th Transcript Call so he could read it for himself.

In closing he states he hates Trump as he is crude and his language is awful. I asked what language has Trump used that he, my friend, has not used currently or in the past. Doesn't matter. Well there you have it; Thanksgiving Dinner Roundup between two friends. We stopped and had pie. Good pie even if the democrat supplied it.

P.S. – note the theme of our conversation. My friend depends solely on the MSM media, in particular MSNBC and CNN, for his knowledge of current events. (I purposely left out The View as a source.) This is what is troubling to me and should be for all America. Political Machines, Universities and Governments that push their socialist propaganda over and over will destroy free thinking in America. Just watch the MSM on any given day and you will see the word or phrase of the day being repeated over and over (existential threat, constitutional crisis, bombshell, explosive, etc.) This reinforcement of the socialist propaganda is to weaken the mindset and make it pliable to abandoning our Constitutional Republic and replacing it with a Socialist/Communist way of life.