

## SPECIAL POINTS

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## OF INTEREST:

- Listen to Sam every Sunday, 3-5 PM Central, on LATalkRadio.com, Channel 2, or anytime online.
- Ideologues conduct political activity to gain political power. Principles should drive what we do, not selfish pursuits.
- Criminals commit crimes.
- We have choices that will bring about more changes than trying to shout down our opponents.

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# IMPACT WITH SAM CLOVIS

## LIBERTY AND WHY IT MATTERS

Given the recent news about purported political violence in the country, I thought it important to discuss the foundation of American exceptionalism—individual liberty. It is liberty that empowers the individual to express him or herself without threat of persecution because of differing political beliefs. It is individual liberty that requires that we have a free press, the right to assemble, the right to associate with whom we wish and the right to worship as the individual sees fit.

I've written and given speeches about liberty in the past. My friend Rick Santorum got me to thinking about liberty in a way I had not considered in the past. Rick argues that many people use freedom and liberty interchangeably. I suppose that for most, the nuances are not worth arguing. However, I think there is a great difference between liberty and freedom. Liberty is so much greater, so much more encompassing.

Liberty is about free will and the expression of conscience. Liberty empowers. Liberty allows the individual to stand alone, if necessary, to face the tyranny of the majority and to be able to battle the fads, trends and relativism that pervades contemporary society.

Liberty endures. Liberty spans generations because the liberty expressed by our Founding Fathers and written into our Constitution is the same conceptual framework that protects every citizen today. Liberty persists even though our teachers no longer teach civics

and generations of Americans have been left ignorant of the most precious right of all—individual liberty.

I wish everyone could have the experience of dealing with immigrants who have fought and bled to come to this country legally. I recall my interactions with Jewish immigrants from Russia who came to America as a matter of choice. I remember the interviews I had with many of them—middle aged individuals who had never lived anywhere other than the Soviet Russia. The reason they were so desperate to reach America was because of the promise of liberty. They wished only to be allowed to worship their God and to pursue their vocations of choice without interference. They treasured their new found liberty on American shores.

As heartwarming as my experiences were with the Russian immigrants, I fear that we Americans take our individual liberty for granted. This most precious gift from our Founders must be protected through active participation in the political system. If we are to preserve liberty for all, we must insist that our children be exposed to civics and government courses. We must insist that our children be taught about the institutions that allow citizens to be less dependent on government. We need to demand from our elected representatives that they revere the Constitution and acknowledge their responsibilities in protecting liberty. We must not be afraid to stand for liberty when it is under attack.

## POLITICAL VIOLENCE

I started with newsletter with a brief discourse on liberty because, hopefully, such an entry will provide context for the political violence we see every day. Antifa, confrontations in restaurants, and violent protests in cities around the country do not serve the political process well. And when people kill others, or try to kill others, that is no longer political confrontation—those are acts of terrorism.

All of us, particularly those in the media, want to make sense of senseless acts. We want to assign blame. We want to pin the rose on the President or on a particular party or with a particular generation. This type of thinking is not helpful and, truth be told, is merely a form of rationalization that assuages guilt and deflects the hard task of looking into why we have lost all sense of comity in our political interactions. The men who tried to bomb their perceived threats or who killed innocent people celebrating a religious rite are criminals.

They don't speak for me, act for me or represent me. They took those actions and now they will have to suffer the consequences of their actions. No one is to blame but them.

I would never dream of walking up to someone in a restaurant or coffee shop and confronting them about their politics. They have their right to believe as they do and I expect the same in return. If one is so incensed by political views that differ from one's own, then perhaps one should seek professional help.

A few months ago, I had someone approach me publicly and wonder out loud, for all to hear, why I was not in prison for my actions related to Russian collusion. I smiled, stated how sorry I was that they felt that way and that I was not going to prison for anything I did on the campaign. I stated I wasn't sure what the outcome might be if they insisted on embarrassing themselves further, however. Bullies always back down.

# IDEOLOGUES



*"I am not sure what to do about all of this, except that I feel compelled to begin confronting my elected representatives in such a way as to hold them accountable. I am fortunate in that I have a voice and several outlets for my disappointment, but I am not sure my elected representatives are the least bit afraid of what I might say. Their contempt for me and other like me is palpable, but at the same time they seem to always stiff arm any criticism by talking about the toxic political environment in DC. It's toxic because they want it to be."*

**People cannot choose which laws they will follow. The Constitution is the Supreme Law and everyone needs to adhere to its directions.**



Russell Kirk, arguably the best conservative intellect of the 20th century, wrote often about being on guard for ideologues. His admonition was offered because he recognized that far too many people who seek public life do so for power and not service.

An ideologue is an individual who conducts political action and activity to gain political power so as to suppress or eliminate those who might hold contrary views. If one thinks about the establishment class of both political parties, one can easily identify those who seek power at the expense of service to constituents. I have seen this up close.

I view this particular class of vermin as the most dangerous in today's political environment. These are individuals who will do anything to gain or maintain power. They view any political view that is not in line with their own as threatening and will take actions to marginalize or eliminate that opposition. Those who represent disruptive forces inside the establishment are considered particularly dangerous. This is why those who currently want to "drain the swamp" are attacked in the press, and worse, behind closed doors inside their own party apparatus. One toes the line or one must be prepared to fight for one's political life.

Angelo Codevilla, professor emeritus from Boston University and American Spectator contributor, wrote a seminal essay in 2010 outlining the widening gap between what he called the Country Class (you and me) and the Ruling Class (those who control the swamp). He did not distinguish between parties, because when it comes to ideologues and ruling elites, there is not a dime's bit of difference between the two parties. And with every election cycle, we want to believe those who say they represent our views, but in reality, nearly all who seek office are doing so for that entry into the

ruling class. Perhaps my skepticism has gotten the better of me, but I do not believe a thing I hear anymore from those who want to "represent" me in Congress. Sad, but true.

I am not sure what to do about all of this, except that I feel compelled to begin confronting my elected representatives in such a way as to hold them accountable. I am fortunate in that I have a voice and several outlets for my disappointment, but I am not sure my elected representatives are the least bit afraid of what I might say. Their contempt for me and others like me is palpable, but at the same time they seem to always stiff arm any criticism by talking about the toxic political environment in DC. It's toxic because they want it to be.

If we were able to find ways to embarrass them in public, we might have a better chance of modifying their behaviors. Unfortunately, their visits home do not always lend themselves to true public discourse. Their handlers will not normally allow them to get into a corner from which they cannot escape. Further, depending on age, gender and other factors, to criticize might be considered a triggering event. Political correctness run amok.

I wonder if we will ever be able to truly regain the checks and balances intended by the Founding Fathers. Congress will have to do its duty and begin taking back power from the executive branch. Congress can also kick out the slats of the feather bed upon which the judiciary finds itself by revitalizing the court system. In a perfect world, the American people would repeal the 17th Amendment and we would bring true checks and balances to the Congress.

We must be courageous in our quest to bring to heel the Ruling Class. Strength in numbers.

# ALA CARTE DINING

I suppose it is a sign of the times, but it seems more and more that far too many people think that the rule of law is based on the model of a person cut loose at a buffet line. The modern citizen gets to pick and choose which laws will be followed or which articles of the Constitution will be supported and advanced. Folks, that is not how it works and the ala carte approach reflects people who are lazy, ignorant, stupid, progressive or worse (or all the above). Too harsh? I don't think so.

In my brief political life, I cannot begin to count the number of people who want certain laws enforced, such as current immigration laws, and will turn right around and lobby for exceptions for their industry or business interest. The number of members of Congress who totally disregard the Constitution is far greater than one might think. This disdain for the document that was intended to provide order for our government and society is covered over with excuses related to the

complexity of government, how hard it is to find bipartisan support for legislation or the timing for making changes is not right.

The rule of law is just that—all citizens are equal before the law and the laws passed by our elected representatives and signed into law by the President should be followed. Above that, all officials who swear an oath to the Constitution should be knowledgeable of the document and understand one's responsibilities in supporting and defending that document. This is about duty, not rationalization.

How are we to ever gain a reverence for the law and the Constitution unless we do a better job of educating the citizenry and demanding that our elected representatives do their duty? It begins with each individual personally taking responsibility for fulfilling the duties of being a citizen and then having the courage and will to hold others accountable to the same standards. It is our duty.

# FREE SPEECH

The First Amendment is arguably the most profound and important element of the Constitution of the United States. Captured in that simple set of clauses is a bundle of rights that provide the foundation of personal liberty. We, the People, are to be protected from our own government in the exercise of conscience and free will. Powerful.

Most people who read these newsletters probably take exception to the pronouncements of those on the other side of the aisle. Many would like to stifle their polemics and hyperbole. Most who read these newsletters would very much like to see the main stream media held to account in some way for their constant flow of biased, false and destructive emanations. I get angry, too, but then I realize that free speech is more important than whether or not my feelings get hurt by some made-up story about my views on women, gays or science. As has often been stated, I may not agree with what is said, but I will defend to the death the right of those to say what they might.

Technology and social media have changed the dynamics of speech around the world. The ability to post almost anything on Facebook or You Tube or to make comments on Twitter—anonously if desired—bring new dimensions to free speech. As controversial as the current algorithms might be that seem to censor right wing political speech, individuals still have the ability to get off social media or to grow thicker skin and stay in the arena. I know that most people who do not like

what they see on their TVs will usually change the channel. The same principles apply with social media.

It is foolish to expect to get the main stream media to change their spots. As such, citizens can continue to express their outrage, but the best actions are to go after them economically. How many newspapers, magazines, television news departments, cable news outlets and left wing radio programs that are actually flourishing? Not many, and the reason is that we have made choices that have affected the business outcomes of the media.

I know it seems a bit silly to “boycott” celebrities, media outlets or businesses, but it is something I can do that I know, in some small way, affects their influence. By exercising my right to choose, I know I am making a difference.

I've reached a point where I will not watch movies or television shows that star folks who are so outspoken about our President. I don't go to movies much anymore, but the number of people I will go see is dwindling dramatically. I watch very little NFL football anymore and will not watch other sports because of the outspoken political views of many of their stars. I don't buy products from stores that have chosen to be politically correct. I do buy products from companies that are generally supportive of this country and the Constitution. Made in America matters. Making America Great Again matters even more.

*“I know it seems a bit silly to ‘boycott’ celebrities, media outlets or businesses, but it is something I can do that I know, in some small way, affects their influence. By exercising my right to choose, I know I am making a difference.”*



*Free speech matters, and if we protest the speech of others, then we endanger our own rights.*

# BELOW THE RADAR

One ought to be on the look-out for movements in the legalization of marijuana in the country. Currently, there are nine states and the District of Columbia where cannabis has been legalized. However, as may not be known to many, state laws (and those of DC) do not “trump” federal laws. As such, federal authorities can enforce federal laws in these states, regardless of what has been passed by the respective state legislatures. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, though not the most effective member of the administration, is an outspoken opponent of loosening federal laws related to marijuana.

Though there are compelling reasons to modify federal laws related to marijuana from a criminal justice perspective, I see little chance that Congress will do much more than change the classification of marijuana so that federal judges might have some discretion in sentencing. Further, federal agents might be given some discretion when it comes to enforcing federal drug laws.

Like many other controversial issues that occupy political space these days, marijuana is one of those that is a generational thing. Those of us who are boomers probably still see marijuana as a gateway “drug.” Our children don't see it that way and their children (my students when I was a professor) don't see anything wrong with using cannabis at all. Over time, all of us boomers are going to die out and the next generation will have to deal with overall drug policy and

whether or not marijuana recreational use is really a threat to our societal fabric.

Many conservatives see the spread of states legalizing marijuana as leading directly to states turning “blue.” I just don't see it that way. Most of the states that have legalized marijuana were already reliably blue. What might one expect? Many of the blue states that legalized marijuana did so to gain more revenue to support their runaway social programs and failing state governments. Sooner or later the social costs of marijuana legalization will come home to roost and all the revenue in the world will not fix those problems.

I wish I could get my conservative friends to focus more on criminal justice reform and mental health reform. The two issues are tied together and need to be addressed. Our jails are filled with people who should be getting medical help. Jailers and law enforcement officers are not equipped to deal with mental health problems. Further, families cannot help members who are displaying mental health issues under current laws. How many of the most infamous recent mass shootings could have been averted had family members been able to refer loved ones for care. Patient rights should be protected, but those closest to the individual should be involved in dispositions.

Criminal justice and mental health reform are not sexy, so I don't see Congress doing much. Maybe that should change.



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Sam Clovis is a successful businessman, college professor, political advisor and military officer who hosts IMPACT with Sam Clovis every Sunday afternoon on LATalkRadio. His resume is lengthy and impressive. As a 25 year Air Force fighter pilot, a highly successful private sector business operator, distinguished Fellow at a prestigious think-tank, top-rated radio talk show host, national co-chair and chief policy advisor to a successful presidential campaign, policy director for the presidential transition team and Senior White House Advisor to the Department of Agriculture, one can see why Sam is one of the most sought after consultants in the region. Not afraid to take on the toughest issues, he has blazed a trail in modern politics that has seldom been matched.

His internet radio program examines current events through the lens of contemporary business, economics, politics and culture. One might also find a bit of humor along the way, as he examines how seriously some people take not-so-serious issues. When all is said and done, the listener will get it straight without flowers and ruffles. Listen every Sunday afternoon, 3-5 PM Central. Download the program from the LATalkRadio website.

## SHOW HIGHLIGHTS – UPCOMING EVENTS

I just recorded by fifth IMPACT with Sam Clovis internet radio program this past Sunday, the 28th of October. The program is progressing well, but it is hard to gauge listenership right now. I am hopeful that there are some hardy souls who listen during the live broadcast, but I know for a fact that many download or listen to the broadcast at their convenience by going to the LATalkRadio.com website and finding my program on Channel 2. The feedback on content so far has been very positive so I will continue to bring current events to the forefront with my particular take on issues.

I have been able to add more voice over commercials from the Conklin Company. This is most helpful as it gives me a chance to get a short break during the broadcasts at regular intervals.

The principal sponsor for the broadcasts is Charles W. Herbster, owner and CEO of the Conklin Company, Herbster Angus Farms, North American Breeders and Carico Farms. Mr. Herbster is chairman of the Trump National Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Rural Issues. This group was instrumental in raising funds and turning out votes for the 2016 election. The group remains active and a strong influence on the President.

There will be more sponsors coming on line once we can prove we can attract an audience. I am hopeful we will be able to reach thousands in the not too distant future. I could use your help in spreading the word. Here are the events scheduled to date:

Weekly—The Ed Martin Movement, Salem Radio, St. Louis, MO.

November 4—IMPACT with Sam Clovis.

November 11—IMPACT with Sam Clovis.

November 12—Guest hosting for Simon Conway, WHO Radio, 1040 AM, 4-7 PM Central. Listen live or on line at WHO.com.

November 18—IMPACT with Sam Clovis.

November 25—IMPACT with Sam Clovis.

December 2—IMPACT with Sam Clovis.

December 9—IMPACT with Sam Clovis.

December 16—IMPACT with Sam Clovis.

December 23—IMPACT with Sam Clovis.

December 30—IMPACT with Sam Clovis.

January 6, 2019—IMPACT with Sam Clovis.

January 13—IMPACT with Sam Clovis.

January 20—IMPACT with Sam Clovis.

January 27—IMPACT with Sam Clovis.