

Is it Time for Secession?

I recently read several articles that takes up this question. Shane Schaezel wrote in his blog on August 3rd, 2020:

“Secession of the states has been a recurring issue, not just in American politics, but in international politics as well. Recently, we witnessed the secession of the UK from the EU in what was called the Brexit. Prior to that, there was a failed (but totally legal) secession attempt of Scotland from the UK. There has been talk of secession movements in Spain, Italy and Canada. Secession is part of Western politics, and it is a bulwark of democracy, the right for people to determine their own destiny by democratic, and/or representational government. The United States, itself, was founded on secession from the British Empire in 1776.

That being said, the US has a schizophrenic relationship with secession. On the one hand, the United States was founded on secession, and the United States has encouraged secession in various places across the globe. On the other hand, the United States fought a bloody civil war to prevent the secession of its own states during the 1860s.”

For us as citizens 160 years after the War Between the States we are finding ourselves living in direct opposition with each other in ways that the citizens living in the 1860s would scratch their heads and ask why we are tolerating such division with each other?

When I was a boy growing up in Mississippi, we had people who practiced real racism and bigotry and did not care who knew it! When these racists were brought to justice the courts of law stated that they enjoyed First Amendment protections under the Constitution and could not be silenced or restrained. They practiced Jim Crow laws which were a collection of state and local statutes that legalized racial segregation. Named after a Black minstrel show character, the laws (which existed for over 100 years, from 1865 until 1968) were meant to marginalize African Americans by denying them the right to vote, hold jobs, get an education or other opportunities. Those who attempted to defy Jim Crow laws often faced arrest, fines, jail sentences, violence and death. These racists also belonged to the Democrat Party!

Fortunately, many brave men and women stood up to these racists and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed. The legislation was proposed by President John F. Kennedy in June 1963, but it was opposed by filibuster in the Senate. After

Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson pushed the bill forward. The United States House of Representatives passed the bill on February 10, 1964, and after a 72-day filibuster, it passed the United States Senate on June 19, 1964. The final vote was 290–130 in the House of Representatives and 73–27 in the Senate and was signed into law by President Johnson on July 2, 1964.

Now we find that a new crop of racists and bigots have emerged. These new racists and bigots believe that Free Speech is not to be tolerated and often denigrated to the point that one side seeks the arrest of the other side of the argument or to sue them into poverty. They also believe that no one can own a firearm despite Supreme Court rulings against them. These new racists also belong to the Democrat Party!

Sometimes I wonder if we need a Civil Rights Act of 2023? In my mind such an Act would prohibit teaching hatred as part of a school curriculum as found in Critical Race Theory, it would also prohibit your speech in public or on social media from becoming a reason to fire you from your place of employment, and finally such an Act would again guarantee a Citizen's right (who did not have a criminal record or mental illness) to purchase and maintain a firearm for their protection.

I believe that if we don't relearn how to tolerate each other, we will be asking the Secession question again and most probably fighting a new War Between the States!