

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

October 2019

President's Byline:



Catherine Gibb and I attended the National Federation of Republican Woman's convention in Indianapolis, Indian. We met Republican women from all over the nation. NFRW gave our club their highest award, The Diamond Award. In order to get that award our club had to do certain things. Some of the things are hold a certain number of meetings, put out newsletter, and doing campaign hours.

Two days after the National Woman's Convention Catherine and I were off to Galveston for the TX Federation of Republican Woman's Convention. Our club got to send eight delegates to this convention. I would like to thank all of our delegates who took the time to attend the convention. Our club won the John Hightower award. It is the highest award a club can win from TFRW.

Our club could not have won those awards without the hard work of our board and members. Good job ladies. The next NFRW and TFRW conventions are in the fall of 2021.



Congratulations to Nuray Fuller, who won 2 VIP tickets to the Trump Rally in a drawing sponsored by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick at the TFRW Convention.



Jennifer Groszman
 president@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org



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Calendar of Events

**Board Meeting
November 5th**

**November Meeting
November 19th**

May Plano Republican Women Meeting

**NOTE: We are no longer meeting at Reflections on Spring Creek
NEW LOCATION: Napoli's Italian Restaurant, 2865 McDermott Rd suite 235, Plano, TX 75025**



Next PRW Meeting:

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Speaker: Tom Giovanetti
President of the Institute for Policy Innovation

Tom Giovanetti is president of the Institute for Policy Innovation (IPI), a public policy research organization based in Dallas, Texas. Prior to joining IPI in 1992, Mr. Giovanetti was a freelance policy writer and the director of product development for a small manufacturing company in Dallas, where he designed several patented products and gained real-world experience in how taxes and regulations affect small business.

Mr. Giovanetti writes for IPI and for other publications on a wide variety of policy topics including tax reform, intellectual property, Social Security personal accounts, communications policy, Internet governance, education reform, the broadband revolution, and out-of-control government spending. In addition to being published in leading papers including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Times*, *Investor's Business Daily* and *The Dallas Morning News*, he also appears regularly on a number of radio and television programs.

Mr. Giovanetti represents IPI many national and international organizations, including the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), where IPI is an accredited NGO. IPI was also accredited as an observer organization with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), where he argued against UN involvement with Internet governance, and with the UN's Internet Governance Forum (IGF). Mr. Giovanetti also participated during meetings of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property, and represents IPI as a stakeholder during trade agreement negotiations such as the current Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

In addition to his writing and speaking, Mr. Giovanetti also testifies before state and federal legislative committees on a variety of topics, and is primarily responsible for fundraising and development for the Institute for Policy Innovation.

Follow Tom on Twitter at [@tgiovanetti](https://twitter.com/tgiovanetti)

Location: Napoli's Italian Restaurant - West Plano Location, North-East Corner Independence and McDermott
2865 McDermott Rd suite 235, Plano, TX 75025

Time: 11:15 am: Arrive and check-in, **11:30 am:** Meeting, Lunch & Program

PRW membership is not required to attend our meeting

Lunch is available with RSVP for \$20 in cash or check payable to PRW
RSVPs for lunch must be made by 5 pm Friday, October 11th, 2019

RSVPs to attend without lunch may be made up to 5pm the Monday before the Tuesday meeting
We welcome guests and visitors to our General Meeting. Members, please bring a friend!

To RSVP send an email to: rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org

Include your name in your email and specify whether you will/will not be having lunch



October Meeting Photos





THE REAL THANKSGIVING: COMMUNES, SOCIALISM AND STARVATION

BY CLEO MARCHESE, AMERICANISM CHAIR

In today's heated political climate, nothing has become more polarizing than the rise of socialism. Advocates for socialism say it is the solution to everyone getting what they need and is the only humane way to move forward in America, despite the fact socialism has never worked in any country in the world including ours. Let's go back to the past, to the first Thanksgiving and the events that led up to it. We will examine how socialism failed to worked in this country hundreds of years ago.

Who were the real pilgrims?

The original pilgrims comprised of 102 people who left sixteenth century England for opportunities in the New World. The modern story of the Plymouth Rock settlers said they were all fleeing from religious persecution. However, only forty one were looking for religious freedom. The Puritans had separated illegally from the Church of England in 1607 and fled to the Netherlands to live in Amsterdam and later the town of Leiden. The Puritans were accepted into Dutch society but church elders decided to leave in 1617 for multiple reasons; economic hardships and fears they were losing their English language and customs.

How did they get to American? Why chose the bitterly cold New England coast to settle?

The Pilgrims or New England settlers were not the first English or Europeans to settle in the New World, they left England in 1620 to join an existing Virginian colony near the Hudson River. Unfortunately, they landed hundreds of miles away on the shores of Cape Cod, in present day Massachusetts in late November. The settlers initially had joined a London Stock company who were sailing to the Virginian colony to bring supplies. They set sail in early September on two ships, the Mayflower, a large merchant ship and a smaller skiff called the Speedwell. The Speedwell returned to England in mid- September because it kept taking on water. Rough seas and storms caused the voyage to last sixty-five days and for the Mayflower to go off course, landing in Cape Code instead of the warmer, temperate Virginia shores.

The Mayflower Compact

But problems started long before the ill-fated passengers made it to the New World. A lot of the passengers were not Puritans and discord quickly settled in. The Puritans lived a very religious, austere lifestyle. They started calling the other English "strangers" which did not sit well with the other passengers, especially under such difficult circumstances. William Bradford, the leader of the Puritans later wrote in his memoirs, "several strangers made discontented and mutinous speeches". To stop the infighting, while still about board the Mayflower, all 41 men signed the Mayflower Compact on November 11, 1620. It was the first official legally-binding government document in the New World. The compact was supposed to provide a way of self-governance called "civil body politic" to ban everyone together under one common cause.

However, not everyone wanted to adhere to the Mayflower Compact because they felt the Virginia Company contract they signed, had already been broken after landing so far from the British Ruled Virginia Colony. Many of the other passengers refused to recognize any rules since there was no official government. Also the settlers had sponsors who paid for their trip, they were meant to go to an already established colony and work to pay off their fairs. Because they had little to no money, part of the original Mayflower compact stated they would live as a commune with everyone working equally and sharing all the fruits of their labor so they could survive the first year.

The winter of 1620-1621: A Hard Winter and Harder Socialist Lessons

After sending exploration parties ashore to find suitable places to start a new colony, they landed the Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor on December 6, 1620. William Bradford who was also the group historian and later became the governor of Plymouth Plantation kept a careful journal of the weather patterns. By December 16th, he reported six inches of snow already on the ground by the time they reached the proposed site of the new settlement. The colonists lived mostly on the Mayflower as the settlement was built because of the harsh cold.

By Dec 25th, the first work crews were sent out to start building but over the next three weeks they were stalled by rain, sleet and snow storms. They were supposed to build a Common House, and nineteen lots for living quarters for the settlers.

Sharing everything quickly stopped for a variety of reasons. Experts feel it was social tensions from opposing groups, but I feel people are people everywhere. Socialism only works in theory. In reality, the hard winter, and lack of resources sent the new colony into a downward spiral. By January, starvation and respiratory diseases plagued most of the settlers. Under these conditions instead of functioning as a commune, people started hoarding food and some felt because of their higher social station, manual labor was beneath. The colony was working like real-life socialism.

Months of unrelenting rain and sleet stalled the work crews. Construction of the Common House alone was delayed. After the Common House was completed, it had to be used as their living quarters and a hospital.

AMERICANISM REPORT

By Cleo Marchese, Americanism Chair

Continued from Page 4



By February, 45 of 102 settlers had died. There were 17 deaths in February alone. Many people succumbed to the elements, malnutrition, and diseases such as scurvy. Frequently, two or three colonist would die on the same day. By the end of the first winter, four entire families had perished and only one family remained unscathed by the death toll. Of the 18 married women, 13 died. Only three of the 13 children perished, because mothers gave their share of food to their children.

Most people assume the death toll was caused by an unusually hard winter but in later years, original settlers wrote about how mild the first winter was compared to subsequent winters. Despite mild winter weather conditions, the colonist were unprepared because they had expected to go to a more temperate climate in an already established colony. They simply did not have enough food stores to survive and the Mayflower was too badly damaged to go out into open seas without major repairs.

The Mini Ice Age

This time period is called the "Little Ice Age" by meteorologists. It was a cycle of very cold winters that lasted for a few centuries after a significantly warmer period during the medieval times. The period from 1600 to 1620 was quite cold in Europe, especially in the winters. Much of this information is from England but the Netherlands is further north with colder winters. All of Europe experienced the "Little Ice Age" period. The Pilgrims were not unfamiliar with the cold, historians feel this part of the reason they wanted to settle in Virginia.

Hard men to lead in a harsh New World

By the end of the first winter more than half of the English settler had died as a result of poor nutrition and inadequate housing for the harsh weather. Leaders such as William Bradford, Myles Standish, John Carver, William Brewster and Edward Winslow played important roles in keeping the remaining settlers together. They elected John Carver as governor on November 21, 1620. He died in April 1621 from pneumonia.

After the death of the settlement's first governor, William Bradford was unanimously chosen to be the new governor. He would be reelected 30 times and served as governor of the Plymouth settlement for all but five years until 1656. Having William Bradford, the leader of the Puritans, govern the colony is agreed upon by many historians as what helped this colony thrive. He used a combination of faith and hard justice to keep people in line.

Historians are not sure of the exact date but William Bradford changed the Mayflower compact's commune style rules to what is believed to have started modern capitalism in the New World. Instead of everyone sharing everything equally, people who worked hard got to keep the majority of their products. Products or services were traded on a barter system in the beginning.

The Mayflower Compact after many changes was an early, successful attempt at democracy and probably played a pivotal role in their descendants' decision to seek permanent independence from British rule. The Mayflower Compact was used as a governing document in the Plymouth Colony until 1691 when they became part of Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The First Thanksgiving and the Native Americans

The Native Americans in the area knew a lot about Europeans from interactions with explorers and fishermen. Many of these interactions weren't amicable and early contact with Europeans had decimated entire tribes. The local tribes kept an eye on the settlers but didn't try to interaction until March after the first winter.

There were several different Native American tribes in the area: Wampanoag, Pawtuxet and Pokanoket. On March 16, 1621, the settlers where first contact by Samoset, he was originally from the Sagamore Tribe in Maine. Samoset had learned a little English through his travels from fishermen and trappers. After seeing their plight, he saw an opportunity that could be beneficial to all party involved. He introduced the settlers to Squanto, an English-speaking Native American from the Pawtuxet and tribal leader Chief Massasoit of the Pokanoket. Those three Native Americans came to the settlement to make a peace pact with the Pilgrims to avoid skirmishes in the area over land and resources.

A lot has been said about Squanto's reasons for helping the Pilgrims. Historians believed it was to gain their favor so he could eventually turn them against Chief Massasoit of the Pokanoket. Squanto's English was really good because he had lived in Europe many years after being captured by the explorer John Smith's men in 1614-15. He eventually escaped and returned to his tribe years later but sadly, very few where left because they had died from small pox exposure.

Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to plant corn, a local hardy crop and how to hunt the local wildlife and find fish.

The first "Thanksgiving" was an annual October harvest celebration held by the local Native Americans. In October of 1621, the Pilgrims famously joined the harvest feast with the Native Americans to celebrate the first harvest in their colony which is now considered the basis for our modern day Thanksgiving holiday. The first Thanksgiving likely did not include wild turkey or mashed potatoes. Potatoes had not yet been

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AMERICANISM REPORT

By Cleo Marchese, Americanism Chair

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imported to the Colonies yet. The Wampanoag brought deer and the Pokanokets corn, squash, and pumpkins. The feast also had local seafood and wild growing fruits and seasonings such as garlic, onions and cranberries.

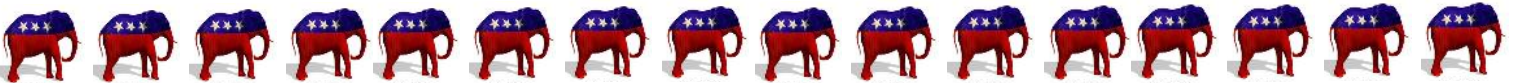
The Aftermath of the First Harvest Celebration

Squanto did help the Plymouth colonists to secure a peace treaty with the local tribes, so the settlement could concentrate on building and securing food than wasting precious resources guarding themselves against attack.

The Plymouth colony never developed a booming economy like later settlements such as Massachusetts Bay Colony. However, they were able to use agriculture, fishing and trading to make the colony self-sufficient within five years after its founding. They eventually merged with the more prosperous Massachusetts Bay colony.

Thanksgiving's progress to a national holiday started in 1777, a year after the Declaration of Independence. The Continental Congress declared a day of thanksgiving to celebrate the end of the Revolutionary war and our victory over the British. George Washington later declared a day of thanksgiving and prayer in 1789 to honor the new U.S. Constitution.

Thanksgiving Day was not formally recognized as national holiday because later presidents felt a national day of prayer violated the separation of Church and State. President Abraham Lincoln officially declared it a nation holiday on October 3, 1863, at his Gettysburg's address as November 26th. It was later moved to the 3rd Thursday by Roosevelt to lengthen the Holiday shopping season to stimulate the economy.



Trivia:

The original Plymouth settlers have a lot of famous scions; both Barbara Bush and George H.W Bush are descendants of the original Plymouth colonists; Frances Cook for George H.W. Bush and Henry Frances for Barbara Pierce Bush.

Other famous politicians are Sarah Palin, and along a lot of former Presidents John Adams, Quincy Adams, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Zachary Taylor, James Garfield and Ulysses S. Grant, former president and general.

Noteworthy able celebrities: Marilyn Monroe, Clint Eastwood, Alec Baldwin, Humphrey Bogart, Dick Van Dyke, Christopher Lloyd, Richard Gere, Christopher Reeve, Bing Crosby, Ashley Judd and Sally Field.

They can also claim Amelia Earhart, and Astronaut Alan B. Shepard, Jr and notable writers Orson Wells, Laura Ingalls Wilder and Dr. Benjamin Spock iconic pediatrician who wrote popular 20th century parenting books.

The name "Pilgrims" means travelers in Latin. It wasn't commonly used until the end of the 1700s'.

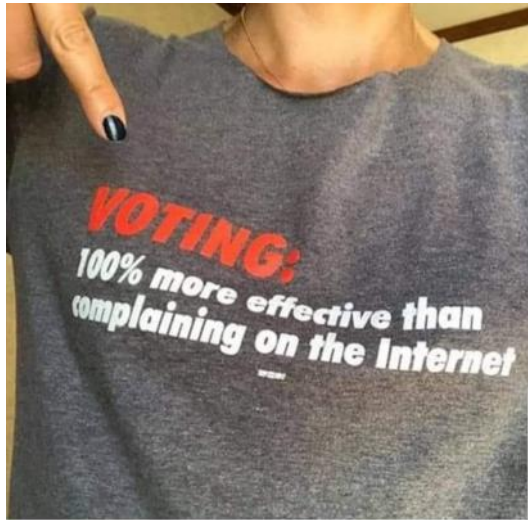
It was initially believed the Speedwell had to turn back because of structural failures. It was later discovered to be deliberate sabotage by the crew who didn't want to make the long voyage across the Atlantic Ocean.

The Mayflower almost didn't make it to the New World. The ship went through many storms and was badly damaged. In one particularly bad storm, it lost one mast of its three masts. They managed to repair the mast by binding it with an iron ring they hastily made on board.

The two most notable passengers on the Mayflower included Myles Standish, a professional soldier who would become the military leader of the new colony and William Bradford, the leader of the Puritans and author of "Of Plymouth Plantation," his account of the Mayflower voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony are still read today by historians.

Today, the original colony of Plymouth is a living museum, a recreation of the original seventeenth-century village. Visitors can taste colonial food, see the restored Mayflower II, and attend reenactments of the first Thanksgiving.

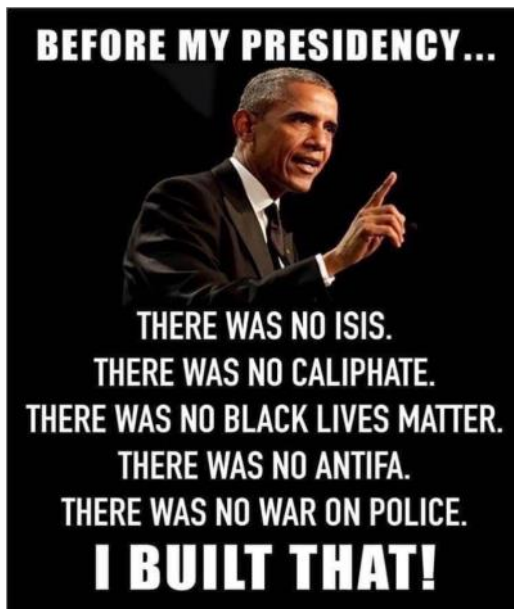
Political Cartoons



I can't believe my grandparents voted Democratic this year in Ft. Lauderdale. They NEVER would have done that when they were alive.



Am I the only one amused by the idea of an electric car charging station powered by a diesel fuel generator?





Legislative Report



Election Day for the Constitutional Amendment Election Is Tuesday, November 5th

Did you know that we have an election going on in Texas? Texans have the opportunity to consider ten constitutional amendments on the ballot - all based on constitutional changes from the recent legislative session. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with a brief explanation of each constitutional amendment as you prepare to cast your vote. For your reference, I also encourage you to utilize a great resource published by the House Research Organization, known as the [Focus Report](#), which provides a neutral, brief explanation of each proposition, including commentary "for" and "against." Election Day is Tuesday, November 5th. For more information concerning countywide polling locations or any other election information, find more [here](#).

Proposition 1 - *"The constitutional amendment permitting a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at the same time."*

The legislative intent behind Prop 1 is to provide cities with the ability to retain qualified municipal judges. If passed, the measure would allow an individual to hold more than one office as an elected or appointed judge in more than one municipality at the same time.

Proposition 2 - *"The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas."*

This proposition authorizes the Texas Water Development Board to issue up to \$200 million in general obligation bonds for financial assistance in economically distressed areas - specifically toward the development of water supply, sewer service or drainage projects.

Proposition 3 - *"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a disaster."*

Prop 3 authorizes a taxing entity to establish a temporary property tax exemption towards property that is damaged or destroyed in an area that has been deemed a disaster as declared by the Texas Governor.

Proposition 4 - *"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual income tax, including a tax on an individual's share of partnership and unincorporated association income."*

While Texans do not currently have a state income tax, there is no prohibition in the Texas Constitution. Prop 4 bans a state income tax in the Constitution, making it very difficult for future Legislatures to enact one by requiring a 2/3 majority in the House and Senate, followed by a ballot referendum for Texas voters to consider. I was proud to author the enabling resolution for Prop 4, known as HJR 38.

Proposition 5 - *"The constitutional amendment dedicating the revenue received from the existing state sales and use taxes that are imposed on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to protect Texas' natural areas, water quality, and history by acquiring, managing, and improving state and local parks and historic sites while not increasing the rate of the state sales and use taxes."*

Current law prescribes a specific allocation from the sales tax on sporting goods to be appropriated to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD). Over the past two decades, the TPWD has received a budget allocation that is substantially less than prescribed in current law. Prop 5 reaffirms this by ensuring that the TPWD receives the proper allocation of funding based on Texas statute.

Proposition 6 - *"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase by \$3 billion the maximum bond amount authorized for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas."*

Prop 6 authorizes \$3 billion in bond funds to the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). If approved, it would provide funding for additional CPRIT grants and increase the current maximum bond amount from \$3 billion to \$6 billion.

Proposition 7 - *"The constitutional amendment allowing increased distributions to the available school fund."*

The Permanent School Fund (PSF) funds public education in Texas, and is jointly managed by the General Land Office and the State Board of Education. Current law mandates that the PSF make allotments to the Available School Fund (ASF), which in turn, is distributed to school districts across the state. Prop 7 authorizes these entities to increase allotments from the PSF to the ASF from \$300 million to \$600 million per year.

Legislative Report

Proposition 8 - "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the flood infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects."

Prop 8 establishes the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) as a special fund outside of general revenue to alleviate in the financing of flood mitigation, drainage and flood control projects. Similar to the SWIFT fund established in 2013 to assist with water resource development projects across the state, the FIF is a coordinated, statewide effort to support communities dealing with disaster relief efforts.

Proposition 9 - "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation precious metal held in a precious metal depository located in this state."

This measure exempts precious metals that are held within a precious metal depository in Texas from property taxes, aligning Texas with every other state that permits precious metal depositories.

Proposition 10 - "The constitutional amendment to allow the transfer of a law enforcement animal to a qualified caretaker in certain circumstances."

Current law prohibits law enforcement agencies from transferring ownership of any valuable property - including service animals - to a person or organization at no cost. Prop 10 removes this barrier, allowing retired service animals to be cared for by their handler or another qualified caretaker without cost.

All My Best,

Jeff Leach



TEXAS
Welcome

You came here from there because you didn't like there, and now you want to change here to be like there. We are not racist, phobic or anti whatever-you-are, we simply like here the way it is and most of us actually came here because it is not like there, wherever there was. You are welcome here, but please stop trying to make here like there. If you want here to be like there you should not have left there to come here, and you are invited to leave here and go back there at your earliest convenience.

"Short sightedness, unable to focus, and blind to reality ... how long have you been a Democrat?"

American Indian Socialism

By: Becky Noble, August 30, 2019

When most Americans think of Native Americans, they think of large glitzy casinos. They imagine the Tribal Elders sitting in a back room somewhere counting the money. While some Indian tribes do operate casinos, the money earned does not go directly to the Tribe, and not everyone belonging to the Tribe automatically gets a job. The life of the average resident on a typical American Indian reservation is far from the bells and whistles of the casinos. In fact, it is a perfect example of what socialism has done to a proud and once autonomous people.

Most of the 2020 Democrat presidential candidates are promising that, if elected, Americans get the moon, and they get it for free. Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and the rest of the crowd are doing their best to make socialism cool, and it is working among younger Americans who see themselves strapped with thousand of dollars in student loans upon graduation, in addition to all the other unfairness they have been taught to believe about capitalism. But what most Americans don't know, is that we have a perfect example of the failure of socialism right under our noses in the form of American Indian reservations.

The statistics are grim, and they do not lie. Let's start with the land itself that the residents of the reservation live on. The land is managed by a federally recognized tribe under the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, a government agency. But within the tribe, most of the land is communally owned, which means residents are unable to get a clear title to the land they live on. Because of this, many residents live in mobile homes. Why build a house or invest time in that land when it is not really yours? Tribal and federal government is the primary employer for most residents however, most of those living on the reservation live well below the national poverty level. As of 2013, the poverty rate for Native Americans was 11.3 percent, nearly twice as high as the national poverty rate that year of 6.9 percent. Jobs on the reservation are almost nonexistent, and many residents have to travel a distance to get to a job, many of those are minimum wage jobs.

Housing is critical on reservations. At times the wait is as long as two years for reservation/government housing. Reservation housing is often inadequate with subpar or even no plumbing, kitchen facilities, heating or air-conditioning. Sometimes these simple things that other Americans take for granted are seen as luxuries. A meager income must go to things like food and maybe getting that one person who lives in that household to a job.

Socialists love to talk about "free government health care". The facts of government health care on the Reservation might not be the shining example that your garden variety socialist would automatically go to. The average life expectancy for Native Americans is five years shorter than other Americans. Roughly half of all Native Americans rely on the Indian Health Service, yet another government agency. The Indian Health Care Improvement Act was signed into law in 2010 as part of the Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as Obama care-government run. Seeing a trend here? It only meets about 60% of the residents' needs. Doctor's offices and pharmacies that are not part of a hospital are nonexistent for some reservations.

The numbers for those suffering from chronic illnesses is disturbing. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for Native Americans. Native Americans are a whopping 177% more likely to die from diabetes than other Americans. Infant mortality rates run roughly 60% higher than for white Americans. Alcoholism rates are not much better for Native Americans. For those 12 years old and over, the rate is 9.2%, the highest of any ethnic group. Perhaps the most alarming statistic, Native Americans are 500% more likely to die from tuberculosis.

Any student of American History should acknowledge the fact that Native Americans have endured unimaginable treatment at the hands of the American Government and her citizens. They are a forgotten people in a land where its founding documents include the phrase, "all men are created equal." They continue to receive this treatment by having socialism foisted upon them. Would not all Native Americans prosper and be lifted out of poverty by getting them off the reservation where virtually no economic opportunity exists into the mainstream of American society? This a system that was created to keep Indians off of prime land the government wanted to reserve for white settlers. It is an archaic and horribly obsolete system that keeps our fellow Americans from realizing their full potential as individuals and as a people.

The lives of Native Americans held in the grips of socialism is just another example that it has never worked anyplace it is tried. Just ask Venezuelans, Cubans, and Native Americans.

Becky Noble is a Blogger, Writer, and Internet radio talk show host in St. Louis Missouri. She writes two of her own blogs, "The Conservative Cauldron" and "Renegade Politik". She has also written for Examiner.com, NewsNinja2012.com, and TheBlackSphere.net. Becky hosts her own Internet talk show, "Conservative Cauldron Radio" which can be heard on Fridays at 11:00amCDT on BlogTalkRadio.com. She is married to Randy, who is an author, and they are the parents of Jezzie, a 50lb Border Collie who thinks their house is hers.

Sanders Praises Communist China. Ted Cruz Crushes Him With One Tweet

By Hank Berrain, August 28, 2019

On Wednesday, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) took aim at Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) for his praise of Communist China, in which Sanders stated that Communist China had made "more progress in addressing extreme poverty than any country in the history of civilization."

Cruz, who has been an aggressive opponent of the Communist China regime and whose knowledge of history, in all likelihood, far outstrips Sanders', fired back on Twitter, snapping, "Sure, the Chinese Communists have wrongfully imprisoned & tortured millions, and they have murdered over 65 million people, but Bernie may have a point: when you're dead, your poverty's solved, right? #AbsurdLeftistPropaganda."

The story that triggered Cruz to demolish Sanders came from The Hill, which lauded Sanders' "nuanced view of Beijing." Sanders told Hill.TV's Krystal Ball, "China is a country that is moving unfortunately in a more authoritarian way in a number of directions. But what we have to say about China in fairness to China and its leadership is if I'm not mistaken they have made more progress in addressing extreme poverty than any country in the history of civilization, so they've done a lot of things for their people."

This is not the first time Cruz has flattened Sanders, whom he must regard as his own personal punching bag. In February 2017 they debated healthcare, and Cruz lacerated Sanders several times. He forced Sanders to admit that former President Barack Obama lied about Obamacare and destroyed Sanders's socialist philosophy after agreeing that corruption permeates Washington, D.C., then turning to Sanders and saying, "If the problem is that government is corrupt, why on Earth would you want more power in Washington?"

In October 2017 the two senators debated the GOP's tax reform plan, which Sanders had described as "Robin Hood in reverse." That prompted this classic slam-down from Cruz: "I think Bernie fundamentally misunderstood that story. Robin was robbing the tax collectors who were collecting too much taxes from the working men and women and taking it from the rich. In Bernie's analogy, it is the Democrats who are King John and the Sheriff of Nottingham, and Robin is saying, 'Tax collectors, stop hammering people who are struggling, who are laboring in the fields, who are working. Stop taking it to the castle to give out to your buddies.'"

Cruz has also been strong targeting China; in April 2019 he stated, "China is in my view the greatest long-term geopolitical risk to the United States. They are the greatest risk militarily, they are the greatest risk economically, and they are the greatest risk in expanding their world influence and seeking to constrain our own."

In June 2019 Cruz teamed with Rep. Francis Rooney (R-FL), who was the vice chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee before the Democrats took the House in 2018, to bring back the "Stop Higher Education Espionage and Theft (SHEET) Act." Cruz stated:

Thirty years ago, the world watched in horror as tens of thousands of Chinese soldiers mowed down protestors who had assembled in Tiananmen Square to demand freedom from the tyranny of Communism. That tyranny lives on today in forms as open as political violence and as insidious as mass ubiquitous surveillance. Today we remember the bravery of Chinese dissidents all around the world. We must stand with the brave men and women who continue to fight for liberty in China, both to honor the legacy of those who died in the fight and to elevate the cause of those who continue the battle today. As we remember their courage, the U.S. must remain steadfast in protecting our own people. The Communist Party is infiltrating American society to censor free speech and steal sensitive research. Groups like Confucius Institutes, China Student Scholars Association and the Thousand Talents program threaten the integrity of our universities and research. We must counter these efforts, and I am proud to reintroduce the SHEET Act.



This my friends, is how liberal mind works



"Homicide is the leading cause of murder."
~ Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
(D-TX 18th)

October Meeting Photos



From the Drag Queen to the Swamp

By: Mark Bauerlein for the Opinion pages of Epoch Times, October 10-16, 2019

In the Sohrab Amari versus David French debate, liberals didn't understand why such a big deal was made about Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH)—having drag queens read stories to children. There are 16,000-plus public library sites in the United States. Why bother with a passing event at a few dozen of them?

The answer: Because DQSH is part of a sweeping socio-political movement that confines religious faith of social conservatives to homes and churches. That's not the opinion of social conservatives alone. It's the judgment of the most powerful library organization in the country. The American Library Association (ALA) has 57,000 members and annual operating expenses of \$40 million to \$50 million. It sets policies for librarians, hosts meetings, gives awards, and receives piles of federal funds (more on this below). It's also a zealous advocate of DQSH and LGBT viewpoints broadly.

The ALA website provides toolkits and resources for librarians who wish to host a DQSH, showcase LGBTQ materials, and respond to protests of them. When DQSH became controversial, the ALA restated its "commitment to combating marginalization and underrepresentation within the communities served by libraries through increasing understanding of the effects of historical exclusion." For social conservatives who don't like it, well, the ALA has no sympathy.

The alignment of DQSH with a universal project of fighting discrimination is the set position of the organization. It has a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table that selects an annual Stonewall Book Award and maintains a "Rainbow Book List" of LGBT titles recommended for "young readers, from birth through age 18." The ALA urges librarians to "Defend PRIDE at Your Library" should anyone dislike the "hearts, rainbows and sparkles; colors streaming from the ceiling; information and inspiration spotlighted wherever space is found."

ALA isn't afraid to join fiery political debates over the issue, either. Two days after the Trump administration pulled "gender identity" out of Title IX (which President Barack Obama had inserted by fiat in May 2016), the ALA issued a response with the heading, "ALA strongly protests rollback of protections for our nation's transgender students." Indeed, before and after the election, the ALA repeatedly criticized what the rise of Trump supposedly entailed: racism, xenophobia, and oppression.

Just after the inauguration, one division of the ALA announced, "The recent disappearance of pages from the White House website and attempts to silence scientists and the media are of serious concern to our Association." A few weeks after the election, the ALA urged members who were attending a meeting in Atlanta to join the Atlanta March for Social Justice & Women, one of the many women's marches in the wake of Trump's victory.

Around the same time, the leadership posted a boilerplate statement that said, "ALA offers expertise, resources to incoming administration and Congress," but the president of ALA got so much censure from members that she rescinded the post and issued a new one stating, "we would like to continue conversations with concerned members as to how the ALA will support our core values as we deal with this new administration."

There is much more. Reading through ALA's relentless affirmation of diversity and inclusion, drag queens and trans kids, you realize that you are in the company of brazen ideological partisans.

Yet here is how the administration has dealt with the ALA.

In 2019, the Institute for Museum and Library Services awarded the ALA \$240,357 to support media literacy training for adults and \$241,113 for "community engagement training materials." It also gave the ALA \$150,000 to host "a national forum to discuss removing barriers and improving the experiences of people who recently immigrated to or sought refuge in the United States." In 2018, the ALA drew \$497,635 to "train 11,000 library staff ... to facilitate computer science and computational thinking."

To be sure, these programs aren't overtly political, though the one that assists immigrants and refugees certainly has a political motivation. But still, it's galling for social conservatives who support the administration to see organizations that despise them continue to receive hefty funding.

This is the genius of the left. If those funds were cut off, the ALA would quickly accuse the administration of politicizing a process that should remain peer-reviewbased. The ALA is supposed to be a professional organization built on norms of scholarship that avoid partisan politics. It maintains programs that do observe those norms, and it maintains close connections to the federal agency that serves libraries.

But that hasn't stopped the ALA from adopting leftist commitments, in this case, hard identity politics. The strategy is a clever one: to politicize an institution that does partisan cultural work, then demand that conservatives in government maintain viewpoint neutrality toward them because the institution preserves a segment of its activity for traditional programming.

Historians of the left recognize the strategy as "the long march through the institutions." If ordinary democratic maneuvers failed to produce radical reform, the strategy says the best way for leftists to succeed is for them to infiltrate the professions, and cultural and educational organizations. From those posts, they can have it both ways, proclaiming professional competence and academic standards while pushing political designs in classrooms and libraries and museums, in training and hiring and promotion, and in the streets. As we can see from the fact that the ALA continues to enjoy lavish support even under a president whom the ALA leadership despises, the strategy has been a remarkable triumph.

Mark Bauerlein is a professor of English at Emory College. Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

PRW at the Trump Rally in Dallas



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The sinking ship of Obama's "legacy" as his spying becomes undeniable

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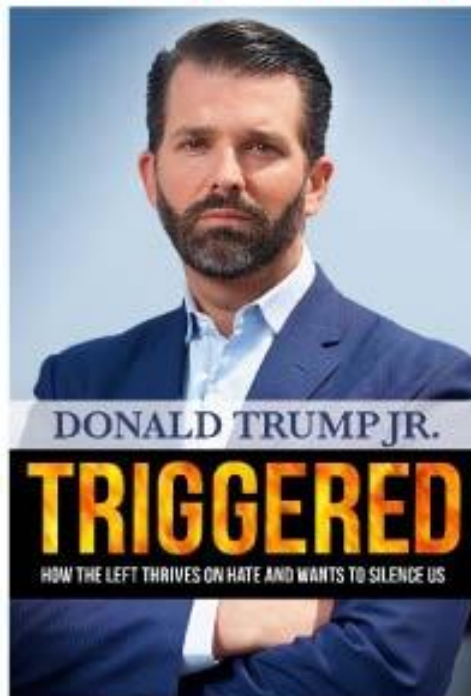
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