



Letters To The Editor

Congressional Dictators

Something is drastically wrong when a couple people control how most members in our U.S. Congress vote on legislation. It is time to examine how House leaders such as the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate leaders can nearly completely control how the members of their party vote in their respective bodies of Congress.

There are a number of ways they accomplish this control. Getting elected to these two offices requires huge amounts of money. This is especially true for the U.S. Senate. U.S. senators must raise millions of dollars to get elected, and once elected to office, they spend almost 100 percent of their time fundraising so they can get reelected. The elected U.S. representatives also spend a large part of their time raising money.

The House and Senate heads control committee assignments, what legislation will get voted on, and how party money will be spent. This is extremely important for members running for reelection. These powerful leaders might even support an opponent in a state to run against a noncompliant member of their party — someone who does not vote as demanded. These are just a few examples.

All of this control over our elected officials is only possible because we elect people to office who violate their oath of office by voting for legislation that is clearly unconstitutional, and once elected have only one goal once they get into office. That one goal is to get reelected as many times as they choose.

Another major problem is an uneducated electorate. If the people voting for these corrupt politicians would vote them out of office once they violate their oath of office, that would end the control over them by the party leaders. Unfortunately our current educational systems at all levels no longer teach the basic principles of government and good citizenship responsibilities.

William B. Baker
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American History Is History

A newspaper article I just read had this headline: “Even George Washington May Be Erased From Our Past.” A school in San Francisco has a mural of Washington’s life (done in 1936 as a WPA project) depicting all the phases of his life — including the fact that he had slaves. Some activists are saying that the mural should be gone. They say it’s traumatizing the students. Yet for the previous 83 years the students weren’t traumatized, or we never heard of it.

Nowadays many of our students know little of Washington. A friend related a remarkable story a man told him about a conversation the man had with his son — it was after-dinner conversation. The man asked his son, who was soon to graduate from high school with honors, what he knew about George Washington. The young man admitted he only knew that Washington had slaves!

Did you know that you can graduate from Harvard with a history major without taking an American History class? Fifty-three undergraduate history programs of the 76 highest-ranked colleges don’t require even a single American History course to fulfill the history major. I wonder when this thinning of the history requirement started.



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If you have a student nearly finished with high school, ask him or her a few simple questions. For instance: name as many of the Founders of the country as you can. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? What year was it written? From what country were the colonists declaring their independence? How many Colonies were there? Who was the general over the entire Continental Army? What Frenchman helped us win the Revolutionary War? Who presided over the Constitutional Convention in 1789? What are the three branches of government? Who was our first president? For that matter, also ask some modern-day questions. Who was the Supreme Commander of the Allied forces in World War II? Who was the first man to set foot on the moon? What year was that? What was Pearl Harbor?

It's as if there is a concerted effort to minimize or erase our nation's past from the thoughts of our present students.

Roberta Sutton
Evergreen, Colorado

“The Freedom Index”: A Heads-Up!

Regular readers of TNA are very familiar with “The Freedom Index,” our congressional scorecard rating every member of the House and Senate based on the U.S. Constitution. Normally we would publish the first index for a new Congress during the summer, but we are not doing so this year because of the lack of Senate votes on key issues. Our first index for the new Congress will be published by the end of the year. Stay tuned!

— *The editor*



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