

Editorial / Opinion

Kangaroo Justice

As this is written, the Democrat kangaroo court impeachment of Donald John Trump, now a private citizen, is well into its third day. So far, we have some “security camera videos,” plus some others, edited to the highest production values Hollywood can generate, depicting the horror of the January 6 riot on Capitol Hill. Now rebranded as an insurrection. Sedition! they cry. Democrats are certain that Trump supporters were on a mission for Donald John Trump, still President of the United States at that time to.....do what? Representative Ocasio Cortez is certain that Senator Cruz had sent Trump thugs to kill her. The Democrat elected class of the US government was certain their lives were in danger, that the Congress itself was under threat and that the mob was sent there by President Trump to.....What?

The most outraged members of the Democrat impeachment mob cite seven deaths on Capitol Hill that day as evidence of the malicious intent of the Trump supporting rioters. They cite a Capitol policeman bludgeoned to death with a fire extinguisher. Except that he wasn't. Ooops. But he was dead, there was a riot, rather an insurrection, surely he was bludgeoned to death. Must be, it fits the narrative. The accusers did what Democrats do, they lied. One other person was trampled to death in the melee, a Trump supporter. Another Trump supporter died of a heart attack. The only intentional death of the day was a woman, a Trump supporter who was shot dead entering the Capitol through a broken window. She was a veteran and she didn't break the window, she just came through it. The policeman shot her dead. She shouldn't have come through the window, but we don't think it was a capital offense. We don't know what the Capitol policeman's circumstances were at the time. Those who do aren't saying. He probably feels bad about it. She's dead anyway. Not being a Democrat we will not jump to a verdict of murder. The Democrat posse will be happy to blame Donald Trump. That is their default position on most things. Trump did it, it's his fault.

Their word for his refusal to accept the results of the election and his every criticism of it is SEDITION. Has to be. If it was sedition, they may be able to bar him from running again and beating them again. Meanwhile, more than one hundred days of mayhem in American cities, supposedly in response to the death in custody of one George Floyd, an African American was what? Supposedly just the disadvantaged of America crying out for justice. That's the Democrat Party line. Except that it appears that Mr. Floyd didn't die from a policeman's knee on his neck, he died from a drug overdose. This has been known now for a couple of months, but the justice warriors of the Democrat Party ignore that fact. Like most good Democrats, they seem to think, why let something as mundane as a contrary fact get in the way of a good story? They used that story to support their “riot for justice” cause. But answer me this, if Trump supporters caught up in the middle of what we now

know to have been a planned riot, at least twenty of whose instigators were not Trump supporters at all, but in fact some of the usual suspects from last Summer's festivities, is to be called sedition, then what was a hundred days of Molotov cocktails launched at police cars, police stations, policemen and women, the FEDERAL COURTHOUSE in Portland? That courthouse was targeted because it was the local headquarters for the FBI, the Federal Marshall's service, several other federal law enforcement agencies, Federal judges and US Attorneys, in fact a symbol of the US government itself. Not to mention, countless fire bombings and lootings of private businesses and assaults on police officers and innocent bystanders. What was that? Do Democrat lawmakers have to be in peril for Democrats to see sedition? How do three hours of mayhem stack up against one hundred days of assaults?

Our new Vice President saw those hundred days of riot, fires and looting by those people as somehow fully justified. She was even part of an effort to raise money for bail for the perpetrators. THEY were justified! They were “mostly peaceful!” The many videos from a dozen cities of burning and looted stores, nightly assaults on police stations, vehicles and police themselves, the nightly attacks on Portland's Federal Courthouse tell a different tale. These were deliberate attacks on the very idea of civil society and civil government itself. The very definition of sedition. But to leading Democrats, one hundred days of THAT was justified, but four hours of chaos lovingly recreated on video tape by Hollywood's best was sedition. By the President! What!?

The Impeachment Managers have marshalled a great deal of “evidence” with their videos and statements by politicians and their staffers as to how terrified they were. We'll stipulate that they were terrified. We'll stipulate that the mob got way out of hand. We'll stipulate that for a few hours, the regular occupants of the offices and corridors of the Congress were at risk. Sort of like the thousands that were terrified, beaten, killed and burned out by a hundred days of “justified protest” last summer. This should not have happened. But how do you lay it at President Trump's door? He loudly and often protested what he and seventy million other American voters believe was a stolen election. But on the day in question, he urged his followers to walk over to the Capitol and PEACEFULLY and PATRIOTICALLY make their voices heard in support of those patriots in the Senate who were making the case, his case, our case, that at least four states' slates of electors were there as a result of illegal and UNCONSTITUTIONALLY conducted elections. So, in this matter, as in so many other matters over the past several years, I ask the question, the real question of the hour. CUI BONO? Who benefits?

Texas Senator Ted Cruz and several others of the more legally minded and eloquent Republican lawmakers were on the floor of the Senate to make the case that the elections in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Wisconsin and Michigan were conducted illegally and unconstitutionally conducted



Ed Scanlon has his opinions

and that their electors could not be counted for those reasons. Unlike what you have been told on TV and read in the lamestream press, the case on the status of those electors and elections were not defeated in courts of law fifty-four times. THEY WERE NEVER HEARD IN A COURT OF LAW. The evidence and there really was evidence, and available expert testimony and physical evidence as well were kept out of court on specious procedural grounds. The absolute betrayal of our Constitution was committed by no less than the Chief Justice and seven other justices of the Supreme Court when he and they ruled that Texas and eighteen other states joined by the President of the United States had no standing to sue Georgia and Pennsylvania over their unconstitutional elections because they could not demonstrate that they were harmed by those elections even if the plaintiffs were correct in their argument. WHAT! States which had conducted legal and Constitutional elections were not harmed by those which didn't? To borrow a favorite phrase of our new “President”, c'mon man!

So, I return to the Capitol Hill riot with the real question. CUI BONO? Certainly not President Trump. The riot in the Capitol brought to an end his last opportunity for the evidence that might possibly keep him in the White House to be presented in a public forum which had the power to effect that outcome. When the peaceful rally in support of his cause ended in a riot which halted work in the Senate, it marked case closed and not in his favor.

Cui bono? In all the yammering about the events of January 6, in all the finger pointing at President Trump, in the few arguments mounted by his defenders, I have not heard a single Senatorial lawyer ask this one basic question. I call out you, Lindsey Graham, our Senator. I call out you, Ted Cruz, the senator from my other state, Texas, probably the best legal mind on Capitol Hill. Ask the question. I call on all of the Senators who support President Trump now or have in the past. Ask. Cui bono? It certainly was not Donald John Trump. So who was it?

P.S. Yesterday the Senate found former President Trump not guilty of the charge contained in the ridiculous impeachment charge the House brought against him. Again. Democrat Trump derangement syndrome knows no rational limits. Nevertheless, the question Cui Bono must be answered. Someone or some group was prepared to launch an assault on the Capitol in hopes of ending Donald Trump as a political force. They must be identified and destroyed before they do any more damage to our political system.

Family and Marriage

Are We Being Deceived?

“Truth will always be truth, regardless of lack of understanding, disbelief or ignorance.” – W. Clement Stone

“Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.” –Bible (Psalm 25:5)

The Wise King, By Kahlil Gibran

“Once there ruled in the distant city of Wirani a king who was both mighty and wise. And he was feared for his might and loved for his wisdom. Now, in the heart of that city was a well, whose water was cool and crystalline, from which all the inhabitants drank, even the king and his courtiers; for there was no other well.

“One night when all were asleep, a witch entered the city, and poured seven drops of strange liquid into the well, and said, ‘From this hour he who drinks this water shall become mad.’ Next morning all the inhabitants, save the king and his lord chamberlain, drank from the well and became mad, even as the witch had foretold.

“And during that day the people in the narrow streets and in the market places did naught but whisper to one another, ‘The king is mad. Our king and his lord chamberlain have lost their reason. Surely we cannot be ruled by a mad king. We must dethrone him.’

“That evening the king ordered a golden goblet to be filled from the well. And when it was brought to him he drank deeply, and gave it to his lord chamberlain to drink. And there was great rejoicing in that

distant city of Wirani because its king and its lord chamberlain had regained their reason.”

The above fable was written about 100 years ago, but its message is timeless. We have a tendency to accept some particular idea as truth and then proceed to live our life accordingly. The challenge is making sure we get the “truth” from a reliable source. For many today truth is arbitrary and may change, especially when it comes to relationships. God tells us what we need to do to call Him Father, but we have changed what He said because what He said is too difficult or unreasonable – or we just ignore Him or claim He doesn't exist. God tells us what the family should look like but we've significantly modified what is acceptable. We've legalized and made “true” many behaviors that God says are not true.

Perhaps we need to define what “truth” is. The world tells us that the truth is arbitrary. Post-modernism, a relatively new “movement” that seems to be growing in popularity, says there is no objective reality, i.e., no truth. Unfortunately, the behavior of many people today indicates they adhere to post-modernism, although they probably don't realize it. Jesus answered that question 2000 years ago. Jesus said “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6). We can't really comprehend what it means for a man to be the truth, but when we accept His words as truth in the Bible, we begin to believe it. “Believing is seeing.”

God's word, the Bible, clearly tells us how the truth is to be implemented in the family.



Roger Rollins, Family and Marriage Coalition

A man and a woman are to come together, becoming one in God's eyes, and usually having and raising children in accordance with God's plan as described in the Bible.

The following quote comes from “Chronicles of the Schöenberg-Cotta Family” by Elizabeth Rundel Charles, a fictional work (but based on the reality of the time) published in 1901 about Martin Luther and his times.

“If I profess, with the loudest voice and the clearest exposition, every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christianity. Where the battle rages the loyalty of the soldier is proved; and to be steady on all the battle-fields besides is mere flight and disgrace to him if he flinches at that one point.”

The Family & Marriage Coalition of Aiken, Inc. (FAMCO) was created to provide resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 803-640-4689, rogerrollins@gmail.com, <http://www.aikenfamco.com>

AARP SC Hosting COVID-19 Vaccine Live Q & A with Governor & Medical Experts

(Columbia, SC): AARP SC will host a statewide live Q & A telephone town hall with state and medical experts on Friday, February 19 at 10 a.m. The call will help provide information to older South Carolinians about the COVID-19 vaccine itself and the distribution process in South Carolina. Participants will be able to ask their COVID-19-related questions to our guests.

Guests include:

Governor Henry McMaster

Edward Simmer, M.D., DHEC Director

Linda Bell, M.D., DHEC, Director Bureau of Disease Control, State Epidemiologist

The call will be in the format of a radio talk show over the phone and will go out to around 70,000 AARP members around South Carolina. The public is welcome to join by calling toll-free 877-229-8493 and entering PIN 114681. Listeners can also catch the program live on AARP SC's Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/aarpSC).

COVID-19 has been devastating for older South Carolinians with 95% of all lives lost to the virus were among those 50+. AARP recently found on a national telephone own hall that older Americans claim one of the primary barriers to getting vaccinated is access to trustworthy and easy to understand information. AARP is a trusted resource for connecting Americans 50+ with information about vaccines, so they can decide what's best for themselves and their families.

AARP Real Possibilities
South Carolina

Make Learning to Save Fun and Easy for Kids this America Saves Week

By State Treasurer Curtis Loftis

When it comes to learning something new, you often hear, “it's never too late.” But when it comes to smart money habits, it's almost never too early.

Beginning February 22 through February 26, it's America Saves Week, an annual celebration that encourages us all to commit to saving successfully by setting goals and making plans. Each day focuses on a different savings theme as participants explore various areas of their finances. As an advocate for K-12 financial literacy education, I find Friday's theme most notable: Saving as a family.

All parents want their kids to grow to be financially independent and able to afford the important things in life without incurring lingering debt. You can set your child on the right path by teaching and modeling important financial habits, especially saving. The key is starting early. If your child is old enough to use their imagination to play make believe, you can begin teaching saving skills. Research shows that kids as young as three can already understand value and exchange, and further research by the University of Cambridge has revealed that children as young as seven can learn the basics of finance.

But regardless of your child's age, it's never too late to teach smart saving choices. Learning to save brings kids a sense of accomplishment and an understanding of the costs associated with things they want – and need.

Delayed Gratification

The key to being a good saver is becoming comfortable with delaying gratification. Teaching small children delayed gratification will help them resist the urge to make impulse purchases in the future. It's as simple as withholding a sweet treat until later, having your child wait to enjoy screen

time until after the family has eaten and cleaned up together, or resisting the urge to buy the toy your child is begging for. Delaying gratification lets your child learn the joy of “waiting for it.”

Earn and Save

When he is a little older, your child can “earn” checkmarks or stickers on a toy chart by helping to clean up toys, being cooperative, or going to bed without a fuss. When he's earned enough stickers, he can pick out a small toy at the store. He'll learn the first step in “earning” what he wants and saving up for it.

Children love to pretend to have grown-up jobs. After all, playing pretend fireman or chef is fun! Extend the pretend play by talking to your child about getting paid for a job. Pay pretend money and explain how a worker might spend his money. In addition to pretending to put some money in savings, begin talking about budgeting, too. Divide “earnings” between money used for what he will “need” to pay for – food, housing, a trip to the doctor – and what he “wants” to pay for – a toy or a book.

Real Savings

Once your child is old enough to be given money as allowance or for completing small chores, she can learn the difference between having money for now and for the future. Clear “piggy banks” are ideal to allow children to see their savings. Find pictures of an item your child would like to save for. Count the savings often and tell your child what could be purchased with the money she has, as well as how much more she will need to save in order to buy the goal item. Borrow money from your child when you're low on cash and pay interest when you give the money back. Explain that this is the way real banks work.

As your child grows, teach her to divide her money into cat-



egories. While she will probably want to spend some of her money, the rest can be divided between short-term savings for a special item and long-term savings that will be important to her future, such as saving for college.

If you have a 529 college savings account, like Future Scholar, explain that money that goes into that account can't be touched. Discuss how compound interest works and talk over ways your child can add to college savings by contributing money earned to help reach your 529 savings goals. Give your child a sense of ownership in his future.

Above all, don't be reluctant to talk over saving and finances with your child. Studies show that children whose parents actively teach financial skills grow up to be more financially prepared. So, wring as many important savings lessons as you can from everyday life – and make it fun!

Curtis Loftis is the South Carolina State Treasurer. As Treasurer, he is the state's "private banker," managing, investing and retaining custody of more than \$50 billion in public funds. He also serves as administrator of South Carolina's Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan.

