

LIBERTY PARK INN®

A Syndicated Column

Name: Democrats Change Platform

By: David Henry © 2012

“Hey, David,” Marcia asked, “You’re a Republican, aren’t you?”

“Yes, I am,” I replied, “but my family wasn’t always Republican. I grew up in my grandfather’s house and he was a union member and a solid Democrat his whole life.”

“I didn’t know that,” Marcia commented. What made you switch parties?”

“Well, for me the most important issues relate to the traditional values that made this country great. The Republicans seem to be doing a better job of standing for those values. Why do you ask?”

“Well,” Marcia replied, “I am really unhappy with what my party did at the Democratic Convention last week.”

“Let me guess,” I said. “You didn’t like how they changed the party platform. Right?”

“You guessed it, David,” Marcia replied. “I backed that video up four times, and I am not at all convinced that they got the two thirds vote they needed to pass that motion.”

“Yes,” I replied. “I watched it too and I agree. It sounded about 50/50 to me. Apparently someone decided in advance how the vote was going to go and it didn’t matter how the delegates voted.”

“That’s dishonest,” Marcia replied.

“Perhaps. But there’s a lot of dishonesty in politics today. You probably don’t know this, but I ran for State Senate years ago.”

“Really,” Marcia replied. “I didn’t know that. Did you win?”

“No, I didn’t,” I replied, “but it was a great learning experience.”

“I’m sure it was,” Marcia replied.

I continued, “A man who knew me pretty well asked me why I was running. He said that I was too honest to be involved in politics.”

“You are an honest man, David,” Marcia replied. “But that’s one of the things I like about you. I don’t always agree with your point of view, but I

know I can trust you. And I know you are respectful of other people’s opinions.”

“Thanks, Marcia,” I replied. “I consider that a very high compliment.”

“So how did you respond when that guy said you shouldn’t be in politics,” Marcia asked?

“I said that if people like me got out of politics, then all we would have left are dishonest people. And certainly none of us wants that.”

“True,” Marcia replied. “So, why do you think they changed the Democrat Party platform?”

“Well,” I answered, “I read somewhere that Obama himself intervened to push for these changes. But I really don’t know. Whoever made the decision is not likely going to admit to it now.”

“No,” Marcia replied. “They probably won’t.”

“Perhaps,” I continued, “Obama felt that there were too many people in America who believe in God and he didn’t want to offend them and lose votes on Election Day over it. Or perhaps he was concerned how the change in the party platform could negatively affect the outcome of the negotiations in the middle-east. We don’t know everything he is doing or why. But I can tell you that I watched the first day of the Democratic Convention and the news commentators kept bringing up the subject of the omission of God and Jerusalem in the platform. What they kept saying is that these things were in the platform last time and they were removed this time, like the omission was an intentional negative statement by silence.”

“Well,” Marcia responded, “it’s not very silent now. There were loud boos and jeers heard all over the auditorium. I even saw people shaking their fists after Mayor Villaraigosa declared the motion was passed.”

“Yes. I saw that too,” I replied. “That was very unexpected. Mayor Villaraigosa was visibly stunned by the delegates’ reaction and it left him in an uncomfortable position.”

“Do you think they were booing

because they didn’t want God mentioned or because they didn’t want Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel,” Marcia asked?

“That’s an interesting question,” I replied. “I guess only God knows the answer to that.”

“Then I guess we’ll never know,” Marcia replied.

“The timing on this dispute is really bad, though,” I commented. “It’s really important to have a united front at the national convention.”

“Yes,” Marcia agreed.

“You know,” I added, “It used to be that nobody knew who was going to be nominated at the convention until it was done. But now the nomination is sewed up well in advance and the convention is a well-planned, carefully orchestrated program designed to win votes on Election Day.”

“That must have been before my time,” Marcia replied.

“This dispute could have been avoided if they had just left God and Jerusalem in the platform,” I added.

“I know,” Marcia replied. “This is something of a no win situation for my party, The Jewish Democrats are unhappy because Jerusalem was taken out of the platform. The Arab-American Democrats are unhappy because Jerusalem was put back in the platform. The Christian Democrats are unhappy because God was taken out of the platform. And the atheist Democrats are unhappy because they put God back in the platform. Nobody’s happy. And just about everyone’s unhappy because of the way these changes were made.”

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It is not the intention of the author to make this a partisan column. When the Republicans do something dumb, you will read about that too.

Liberty Park Inn® is a syndicated column about issues and current events featuring conversations in an imaginary hotel. You may contact the author through his website at www.libertyparkinn.com.