

LIBERTY PARK INN®

A Syndicated Column

Name: Leadership Or Freedom

By: David Henry © 2012

“Hey, Julie,” I said. “You’re a conservative Republican. What do you think about the Democrats changing their party platform at the convention in Charlotte?”

“Well, David,” Julie responded, “that certainly was a surprise, wasn’t it?”

“Yes,” I replied. “I watched that video several times and what happened that day really looks suspicious.”

“I agree,” Julie replied.

“And,” I added, “I did an internet search and it appears that just about every blogger believes that Mayor Villaraigosa made his ruling based on what Obama and the party leaders wanted and not based on what the delegates actually voted for.”

“Yes,” Julie responded. “It is truly sad to see politics in this country so divided. And it’s even more amazing that this division is within a single party. This is not very much different from the way it was right before the civil war. And I really hope we don’t see another bloody conflict break out again in this nation like we had back then. However, I’m not blind. I can see the possibility that this could happen again.”

“I certainly hope it doesn’t happen again,” I said. “So where do you see this latest event taking us?”

“Well, David,” Julie replied. “The most extreme possibility is that we will see a repeat of what happened around the time of the civil war. One of the two major political parties in this country dissolved completely and another party rose up in its place. The Whigs dissolved and the newly formed Republican Party came to power. I see the real possibility that the Democrat Party could self-destruct now in a similar way.”

“That is extreme,” I responded, somewhat surprised at her answer.

“Well,” Julie replied, “it may be extreme, but it is a real possibility. I mean look at the division that was obvious in the Democrat convention

that day. There is no doubt in my mind that Mayor Villaraigosa was surprised by the response of the delegates. He clearly expected them to rubber stamp the decision of the party leadership and they didn’t.”

“Yes,” I agreed. “That was pretty obvious.”

Julie continued, “If the Democrat Party is so evenly divided on what we know are pretty hot issues, why shouldn’t we accept the possibility that the Democrat Party could destroy itself from the inside?”

“Ok, Julie,” I replied, “that is a very interesting possibility.”

Julie continued, “But that’s only a side issue. The more important issue in this election is the question, ‘Do we want strong leadership or do we want freedom?’”

“What do you mean by that,” I asked?

“Let me give you an example,” Julie replied. “On one of the blogs I read, the commenter made the observation that Obama wanted the platform changed to conform to his beliefs and the party obeyed. This commenter called that ‘strong leadership’ and he was clearly praising Obama for his strong leadership and criticizing the Republicans for their lack of strong leadership.”

“I think I read that same blog,” I replied.

Julie continued, “I think this commenter was right. He made an astute observation and I agree with him. Obama is a strong leader. He got his health care bill passed over the strong opposition of many citizens. He got his party’s platform changed over the strong opposition in his own party. He is a strong leader.”

“You’re probably right,” I replied.

Julie continued, “The question is, ‘Do we really want a strong leader like that?’ I mean, Hitler was a strong leader too. And in the early period of Hitler’s leadership in Germany he actually made some good reforms in his country. But there is a danger in giving too much power to any one individual. Power corrupts. Most people can’t handle too much power.

They will become proud and they will oppress the citizens that elected them.”

“I hadn’t thought about that, Julie,” I replied.”

Julie continued, “King George of England was a strong leader at the time of the American revolution. But the colonists saw the problems that come from giving too much power to one individual and they fought the American Revolution to gain freedom for us. Our founding fathers considered freedom to be more important than strong leadership.”

“I think I can see what you’re getting at,” I replied.

Julie continued, “I’m not saying that we want leaders that are weak. Of course our leaders need to be strong. But we want these leaders to be governed by the rule of law so they do not become too strong and get out of control. This is why we have party rules and this is why we have our constitution. Our laws are supposed to be a force to keep our leaders from becoming too strong and oppressing the citizens. We already fought one bloody war to throw off the oppressive government of King George. We don’t need another one. So, in my opinion, what it comes down to is the question, ‘Do we want strong leadership or do we want freedom?’ For me, I want freedom. And I think many Democrats feel the same way.”

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Many people do not realize that our laws are primarily meant to control our leaders, not to be used by our leaders to control the citizens. This lack of understanding has allowed our leaders to become more and more oppressive. We need to wake up in this country so we don’t lose more of our freedoms because of our apathy and lack of knowledge.

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.