

LIBERTY PARK INN®

A Syndicated Column

Name: Paul Ryan Surprised

By: David Henry © 2012

“Was Paul Ryan really surprised by the election results,” I asked? “I just read an article that says he was.”

“It’s hard to know for sure,” Julie replied. “It seems somewhat unbelievable that anyone running for a major public office wouldn’t have known the poll results. But he didn’t appear to be lying either. So I guess the answer is ‘yes’ I think he was genuinely surprised.”

“But,” I replied, “based on our previous conversations you weren’t surprised by the outcome of the presidential election.”

“No,” Julie replied. “The election for president was never really even close. Like I told you before, the only thing that counts is the Electoral College vote and that was strongly in favor of Obama. The final Electoral College vote came out at 332 for Obama and 206 for Romney. Obama only needed 270 votes to win. That qualifies as a landslide.”

“Why do you think the republicans misinterpreted the poll data so badly,” I asked? “Certainly they had access to the same poll information you had and you predicted the election correctly a long time before Election Day.”

Julie answered, “I think they may have been focusing more on the enthusiasm of the people who support the conservative ideals than the poll data. I was partially mistaken myself in this area. I saw the enthusiasm too and since I knew Obama was going to easily win re-election as president, I concluded wrongly that the conservative enthusiasm would bring more republicans into congress, which it didn’t. So in that area I was surprised too. Nevertheless, fiscal conservatives did indeed make progress in congress. So evidently the citizens of this country do want our government to stop this crazy spending binge we are on and get our financial house in order.”

“Do you think there is any real hope

they will do that,” I asked?

“Here again, it’s hard to say,” Julie responded. “In his post-election interview Ryan correctly said that ‘whether people intended to or not, they re-elected a divided government’ and that will make any attempt at compromise and negotiations difficult. We can only hope and pray they will work together for the good of the whole country.”

“I certainly agree with that,” I replied. “One thing that surprised me though, is the amount of hateful comments and foul language used by the liberals about the conservatives since Election Day.”

“That’s a good point,” Julie replied. “When our country was divided during the time of the civil war, Lincoln wanted to show kindness to the south and welcome them back into the union after the war was over, but his assassination prevented that. If a balanced voice of reason like Lincoln’s had lead the way to restoring the nation back then, we would be better off today. It looks like we may be facing a similar problem now. Instead of the nation being able to heal and come together for the betterment of the whole country, it looks like radical voices may not allow the nation to heal properly.”

“That’s a terrible thought,” I replied.

Julie continued, “When I was on vacation in the south some years back I went to a civil war museum and I saw a sign posted there saying that the civil war was not actually over. That surprised me. But I never forgot it either.”

“By the way,” I commented, “I noticed something strange in this election. I was looking at the map of states won by each candidate and I noticed that Obama won the election in the states having the highest per capita income while Romney won the election in the states that have the lowest per capita income. Doesn’t that strike you as being odd?”

“No,” Julie replied. “I’ve never really believed the myth that the republicans are the party of the rich and the democrats are the party of the poor. It’s

a commonly believed myth, but it’s a ridiculous idea. The truth is that there is no party for the poor. There are only parties for the rich. Neither party demonstrates any real understanding of what the poor people in our country actually need to overcome their poverty. I used to be poor so I know. The democrats are just better at pretending to help the poor. That’s all. And consider this little known fact: the democrats have always gotten about as much money in large donations from wealthy donors as the republicans and sometimes even more. So to me the poorer states voting for Romney and the richer states voting for Obama is no surprise at all.”

“That’s interesting,” I replied. “So do you think Ryan will run for president in 2016?”

“He might,” Julie replied. “But no politician is going to make that kind of decision so far in advance. Or at least he won’t announce his intentions. Besides, so many things can change between now and 2016. But if we fall off this fiscal cliff they keep talking about, the country may soon be ready for a solid fiscal conservative for president. So we’ll just have to wait and see.”

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The election is over and settled. But there remains great uncertainty about where our nation is headed. Like the characters in this column we can only hope and pray that our partisan differences can be set aside for the wellbeing of the whole nation.

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.