



# ROSSMOOR NEWS

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

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## ‘Tis the Season...

Republican Perspective

By Christopher Panton

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Peggy Noonan, confidante of and speechwriter for President Reagan, made the following observation in one of her recent Wall Street Journal columns:

“It’s unfair to compare the roll-out of Obamacare with the voyage of the Titanic. The Titanic had at least three good days. And the captain chose to go down with the ship.”

My plan was to use this trenchant mot as a springboard for my column, whereby I intended to sand-blast Emperor Barack the First with scathing indictments based on clever new insights. However, my muse, who is also my sternest critic, happened to be looking over my shoulder. Naturally, she wanted to know what I was going to write. When I told her, she was not happy. “You’re always so critical,” she said. “Well, opinion pieces tend to be that way,” I replied. Then, her clincher. “Why can’t you write something nice for a change?”

Frankly, to do so would be a challenge for me at any time of the year. But, since this is the period allegedly devoted to peace and goodwill to all men, I felt morally obligated to rise to that challenge. In practice, this turned out to be much harder than I thought. I blundered around making a list of all the nice things that we have to be thankful for and pondered how to translate them into a Republican perspective. Whatever standards of acceptability that I hold myself to, these feeble air-ball attempts simply didn’t reach them.

Then suddenly, even with my muse in absentia, it hit me: KISS! Keep It Simple, Stupid. And, brilliantly, the simplest, nicest thing I have to say at this banner time of the year is: WE ARE STILL HERE AND WE ARE STILL SPECIAL! The “WE” refers not to Rossmoor, or to the city of Walnut Creek (latest victim of the spreading Berkeley idiocy contagion), or to the silly state of California (also seriously infected). The “WE” is all of us, the United States of America.

Sure, the United States has had its annual share of troubles and made its share of mistakes. As a country, we have also suffered the customary baiting of internal and

external criticism - some of it justified. Yet the rest of the world - or at least most of it - still turns, almost instinctively, to the United States for assistance, support, a sounding-board, enlightenment, money, cooperation, initiative, an attack target (verbal and otherwise) and on and on.

To document this statement would require more space than is available in this entire section of the News. Therefore, with implacable certainty, I simply declaim it as a person favored with the perspective of being raised to adulthood under socialism, and as a person who is also a dilettante, armchair expert resulting from a 30-year, passionate, love affair with The Economist, which, I humbly submit, is the best magazine in the world if you want to know real stuff.

Just one illustration of why we need to still be here and be special. The subject is war, the ultimate political statement. Wars seem to be inevitable; the United States has been in lots of them around the globe. However, for more than 100 years, the United States has not taken up arms for the empire-building reasons of the good old days. War -not to demolish a country, or claim its land, or subjugate its people, or steal its resources. No over-lordship, no reparations, no post-war punishment.

This ideal demands the investment of an horrendous amount of spilt American blood. But the purposeful, unqualified return on this investment is PEACE. This is why we do what we do. It may not always come out exactly the way we would have liked, but we do it anyway. It's who we are and it's what sets us apart, makes us special.

Peace is an extremely nice thing to have around the place. Ergo, I have written about a nice thing. So, to my instigator muse I say: My work here is done. And to America: Beautiful!

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