

BULLETIN – JULY 4-5

July 4 thoughts. Dr. Harold W. Pease has been a professor of history and political science at Taft College in Taft, California, for over 25 years. He wrote the following:

The Founding Fathers universally rejected “democracy” and hoped that posterity would never turn the United States into one. The word they used was “Republic,” which is not synonymous with “Democracy.” The word “Democracy” is not in the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights. Even the Pledge of Allegiance is “to the Republic for which it stands.” Benjamin Franklin defined democracy as “two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch.” “Liberty” is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote!

So why did they reject Democracy? Because it is inherently flawed with the “share the wealth” philosophy, which only works as long as there is someone else’s money to share. Those receiving are quite pleased with getting something for nothing. But those forced to give are denied the right to spend the benefits of their own labor in their own self-interest, which creates jobs no matter how the money is spent. They also lose a portion of their incentive to produce.

Fraser Tyler, author of *The Decline and Fall of the Athenian Republic*, authored more than 200 years ago, said it best: “A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship.”

Latin motto for those who travel where the water is not safe to drink:

In vino veritas.	In wine, there is truth;
In cervisia amicitia.	In beer, friendship;
In aqua bacteria.	In water, bacteria.

To paraphrase, loosen someone up with wine, and you might loosen his lips. Loosen him up with beer, and you might loosen his personality. Loosen him up with water, and . . . he might just be loose! (Loosely translated.)

Delicious Ironies Dept. Certain Michigan state legislators have been pressing for greater regulation on the abortion industry. Planned Parenthood has typically decried such attempts, even though their historical push for legalizing the elimination of unborn children has been to avoid the supposed “back-alley” abortion mills. Along comes a Detroit legislator who declares that until this current “war on women” stops, women should refuse sexual relations. Well, now, if that happened, there would be no need for abortion, or even for contraception! Curious that when the Church suggests abstinence as a course of action, it is ridiculed as hopelessly out of touch, not in contact with reality. But now spite is proposed as a motive to accomplish what virtue apparently cannot. Of

course, if barroom conversations can be trusted, legions of frustrated husbands and boy friends have known that since time immemorial.

And now some further words to ponder: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed” (Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776). Think about these words, composed and affirmed by men who were not concerned with making a religious statement, but who explicitly stated that certain truths regarding the Creator and the equality of all human beings are self-evident. We are often incorrectly told today that those men were intent on separating religion from public life, yet they are very clear that our human rights come from God, not from the state. Those who are governed consent to bestow *their* God-given power on government in order to assure the exercise of God-given human rights. Independence itself is “the separate and equal station to which” a people is entitled by “the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God.”

Fifty years ago, President John F. Kennedy paid homage to these beliefs of the Founding Fathers when he said in his inaugural address on January 20, 1961, “The same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe--the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God.” Sadly, while some of the places of which Kennedy would have been thinking in 1961 have progressed to a more enlightened view and practice of human rights, our own country often seems bent on deleting any notion or thought of God from the public square. The logical consequence is disturbing. If God is not honored as the author of our rights, from whom do they come? Many in government today would be quick to jump forward and say, “Ta-da! From us, because we know what’s best for everybody else!” In a world which decides that it does not need God, many others will be happy to take his place.

Is it any wonder that the government, little by little, has moved to take over areas which for centuries were, in the name of God, among the primary works of the Church? Education, charity, and health care come to mind as three of the leading examples of bureaucratic encroachment. This isn’t to say that government regulation cannot be helpful, and even important. However, when the citizenry begins to assume that it is up to government to provide for our food, clothing, shelter, school supplies, health care (strangely including contraception, abortion, and sex-change operations), cell phones, pot, babysitting, entertainment, and anything else we not only need but want, we have truly begun to worship Government as an idol. The new Golden Calf will be more than happy to receive the rights and the independence which you surrender in order for it to dole out your allowance from its stash. Don’t be surprised, though, when the Golden Calf gets to decide who lives and who dies. That, too, was a right which belonged to God alone until we replaced him--and he was far more benevolent and tolerant than the Golden Calf will prove to be. Decide, this Fourth of July, whom you will worship. God bless you!

Fr. Den

Thought for the week: “The challenge facing you, dear friends, is to increase people’s awareness of the importance for society of religious freedom; to defend that freedom against those who would take religion out of the public domain and establish secularism as America’s official faith” (St. John Paul II, 1920-2005, and Bishop of Rome 1978-2005, on his visit to Baltimore in 1995).