

Assure Constitution is honored

Patrick Henry admonished, "The Constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people, (but) an instrument for the people to restrain the government."

This is meaningless unless we, the people, restrain those in power from ignoring the Constitution and its prescribed system of checks and balances. It is meaningless unless the fourth estate of the press remains free. It is meaningless unless a fifth column of engaged and informed electorate stops the enfeebling run-away entitlement has caused.

We have put ourselves in peril. Social Security and Medicare consume more than 90 cents of every dollar, every two workers support the retirement of a third, national indebtedness eclipses \$200 trillion and educational standards plummet despite spending more per student than all modern nations except Luxembourg.

Yet we play fast, loose and disrespectfully with a divinely inspired constitutional republic whose genius has been repeatedly demonstrated as detractor's governmental systems decay.

In these weeks before the changing of the House's power of the purse strings and loosing of the Senate's lock step, those entrusted with something rather sacred act as if our metaphorical constitutional "Ten Commandments" were merely the "Ten Suggestions."

Such games are always afoot. Both sides have done it. However, the flagrancy, disregard for constitutional sanction and disdain for the will of a historically remarkable engaged



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and articulate electorate courts irreversible disaster.

The examples are odious are plentiful.

The FY 11 Omnibus lame duck bill, with more than 6,000 earmarks worth more than \$8 billion, was attempted to be rushed through like a Congress with cholera: malodorous, feculent and utterly preventable.

The American people and Congress, rightly or wrongly, discussed and rejected section 1233, "end-of-life consultations," of Obamacare out of concerns a cost-conscious government would put more than just the proverbial camel's nose of a convenient death under the tent. Did you know that over the recess those provisions you made your Congress reject are now administratively part of your Medicare?

At least six major Christmas recess appointments were made to influential governmental positions without advice or consult of Congress that most likely wouldn't have passed even the highly partisan pre-recess Congress.

In March 2009, the Supreme Court ruled against the Obama administration's request to regulate political Internet satellite traffic. Chief Justice Roberts described it as "The government urg(ing) the Supreme Court . . . to uphold a direct prohibition on political speech." During the Christmas recess, by administrative fiat, Obama's appointed FCC chairman issued regulations extending FCC authority over aspects of the Internet.

This fiat thing is driving all over the Constitution. Obama's Environmental Protection

Agency is defying Congress by proclaiming carbon dioxide as a pollutant and imposing cap-and-trade-type regulations despite the failed debacle of Obama's prior run at Congress. You do not matter.

The non-elected head of the Bureau of Land Management is establishing rules making it more difficult to develop natural resources on government-owned land, increasing energy costs perfectly dovetailing with Obama's proclaimed seven-year ban on eastern Gulf and bi-coastal drilling. Why? Because they say so!

What to do?

The fourth column of an independent press and Internet must remain free. Fiats are foreign cars for conveying the masses for convenience of travel, not contraptions that hit and run a Constitution that is always in context.

All proposed laws must be read by legislators and be clear, cogent, jargon free and comprehensible to voters and transparent with timely prominent public posting explaining their progress. They must be of reasonable length with their constitutional relevance cited. The new House must shrink the bureaucracies that are crushing us and clarify who does what before passing another bill.

The unsullied rays of constitutional credibility must illuminate a new year of national dialogue on the crucial issues we face together. We, the people, irrespective of party and persuasions, must be exceptional, of honest resolve and without deceit.

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