

Rule By Law

By Keith P. Spicer

One of the most popular shows on television is Who Wants To Be A Millionaire, with Regis Philbin. For the fun of it, lets play Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?

For the future of our children and grandchildren, which form of government is guaranteed in the United States Constitution?

A) Oligarchy, B) Democracy, C) Republican, or D) Monarchy?

Take your time. Is that your final answer? If you said "C" you win!

Article 4 Section 4 of the United States Constitution reads" The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government": Although the Constitution guarantees a "republican" form of government, many believe that we were established as a "democracy". What's the difference? A "democracy" is rule by the majority. A "republican" form of government is "rule by law". So what does this mean?

One example would be the Clinton impeachment and trial in the Senate. Many Senators believed that after President Clinton was found guilty of the charges brought before the House, that the "rule of law" required that Clinton be removed from office. Senator Byrd (D. WV) even stated that the crimes committed by President Clinton rose to the level of impeachment and that he should be removed from office. However, he went on to say that "polls" showed that the people did not want this President removed, therefore he would not vote for removal. This was a clear example of the "rule by the majority", or the rule by polling, overriding "the rule of law"! A major breakdown in the Constitution.

In my last column I referred to the term "democratic socialism". Some have asked what I meant by this term. Basically this is where the majority of the people learn to "legally" vote themselves money from the national coffers.

In the presidential debates it often gets to be a matter of which candidate can promise you more. Candidate 'X' says he will give you more money for education. Candidate 'Y' says he will not only give you more money for education but will also give you free prescription drugs. Not to be outdone, candidate 'X' revises his platform and says he will give you all of that and he will give you a free college education, he will take care of you when you retire, he will take care of your housing, he will increase your wages, he will pay your heating bills, promises, promises, promises!

How can they do this and get away with it? Easy! Instead of living by the Constitution, "the rule of law", many politicians have learned to go to the voters and "buy" their votes with promises of "goodies" from the federal government. When the thirteen colonies were still a part of England, Professor Alexander Tytler wrote about the fall of Athens over a thousand years ago. He said "A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves money from the public treasury. From that moment on the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most money from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy followed by a dictatorship."

Today instead of living by Patrick Henry's words of "Give me liberty, or give me death" many now just say, "Give me"! Instead of following John Kennedy when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country" many now say, "the country owes me"! Our ancestors gave us a "republican" form of government. A government that would be ruled by law, the Constitution. Today we choose every time we vote, whether we will defend this "rule of law" or continue down the path of "rule by promises"! This choice is worth more than a million dollars. It is worth the freedom our children and grandchildren will have or not have. This is our choice!