

How Gullible is America?

...sadly, the answer may be: very...

by Kat Rowoldt

The last several months, especially the last couple of weeks, have been very interesting. I've been working around the state all summer long. No matter where I find myself, I keep hearing virtually the same story, just a different cast of characters and topics, but all with the same tone and vitriol:

What's happening in the Tom Green County Republican Party, is happening in the Tarrant County Republican Party, is happening in other places, too.

It's the worst of family fights, but I prefer to think of it as growing pains and we will eventually move past this point.

I've had lots of hours on the road to ponder what's happening. Sometimes you just want to throw in the towel and walk away; other times you just want to laugh at the absurdity of it all.

One of the funniest things I've read lately was a list of words with the definitions right beside them. Supposedly, this listing of commonly used words was posted to help the author's followers understand what was meant when folks on the other side of the line (not the other party, but "fellow party folks" who aren't of their same mindset) used them. Unfortunately, the definitions which were posted for the words were nowhere close to what was meant. The "fellow party folks" all had a good laugh at the crazy definitions. What wasn't funny, was the clarity on how these two groups, under the same party platform, will never be able to communicate when the definitions of the words have such completely different meanings, irrespective of the accuracy of how it is defined or who's right or not in what is being said.

Words matter. Definitions matter. The only way you can truly know the meaning of the word someone is using is to go to their source. It is never wise to "assume" what is meant when a word is used. Let me use an example from a Facebook posting where an attempt was being made to define terms used by another group without consulting the source.



In a recent Facebook post, I came across this: *“Establishment = Originally a derogatory term for any person who has worked for the Party for many years is resistant to change within the Party. Now a derogatory term for any person or group that does not support ETs [Empower Texans] efforts to take political control of the Texas Republican Party.”* [Source of quote is being withheld out of respect for the office held.]

This definition appeared to be a response to an article I had written in which, I'd used “Establishment,” along with “Old Guard.” I was shocked to see “Establishment” defined in such a way; it would totally change the meaning of my article and what I was conveying using the definitions presented in that post. Empower Texans never crossed my mind as fitting that, nor do they now.

Who changed the definitions and why, is a topic in itself. Here is the traditional definition and what is meant with the use of the interchangeable terms Establishment, or Old Guard: *“Those who are resistant to change, who staunchly stand to maintain the ‘same ol, same ol’ way of governing. It’s governing by political power, who’s holding the money bags, and not one of ‘we the people.’”* How on earth did Empower Texans ever get into that definition?

We can look across the aisle to the Democratic Party and see it, too, is struggling to define itself. It is being invaded by those who are entrenched in the Socialist Party, Communist Party, and Progressive Party. The “kids” who are pushing this agenda for the sake of all the free stuff, never heard Margaret Thatcher’s revered quote, *“The trouble with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people’s money.”* It’s a shame the young adults of today were never taught the truth about these failed ideologies in school. *“Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it,”* often paraphrased from George Santayana’s words, *“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”* How eerily true. Jockeying terms around is manipulating the minds of others. This is critically important to really understanding the topic at hand. (Joseph Pieper has a small book about this: *Abuse of Language - Abuse of Power.*)

Playing with the meanings of words can be funny in other settings, like a comedy routine, but in today’s reality, the wrong definition can be deadly serious. Such is the case when you’re discussing anything having to do with Islam. Their meaning of common words, like “peace” that we use every day, is vastly different from ours. This is hitting home hard in many of the Metroplexes in Texas where the Islamic community is settling, and Americans just do not want to accept the fact that another culture has crept into our world and is working very stealthily to implode our society and seize our land, our country.

They are using the art of being the “nice guy” to position themselves in all the right places to meet their ultimate goal. They understand that Americans always vote for and defend the “nice guy,” the “little guy.” I call that the Nice Guy Syndrome. My example person is “a really nice guy.” He has not displayed any behavior or said inflammatory rhetoric that would alarm anyone, but he is potentially guilty of membership/connection to the Muslim Brotherhood. Remember, he is “a *really* nice guy,” and a doctor, at that. They, the Tarrant County Republican Party Executive Committee, is having a problem with the meaning of words, too. Once again, two sets of definitions are used by the parties involved, both under one umbrella.

I’ve been pleading with my readers for several years to stop voting for the “nice guy,” but instead, to fully vet everyone on where they stand on a multitude of issues. I never dreamed I’d be seeing the Nice Guy Syndrome employed by the Muslim Brotherhood affiliates to get Muslims elected into office all over this land. I believe I heard nationally we have 90 elected offices which have a Muslim seeking a seat in the November election, plus many countless more who are being appointed to strategic positions. Most Americans think of Islam as a religion and back off to give them room to practice their belief, not understanding it is a political ideology which ultimately wants to force Americans to submit to it. Based on their Qu’ran, they cannot support or defend our Constitution. They cannot swear allegiance to any entity but Allah ... but this is another topic for another time.

Friends and acquaintances have always been important. Today, it is going to require more than just our usual “assumption” they must be just like us because they are in the same club, are members of the same associations, belong to the same political party, go to our church or live in our neighborhood.

I can remember a day when I assumed everyone I knew was a Christian. Boy, that assumption has sadly been gone for a long time now. I’ve learned to ask a few pertinent questions to discover where people really stand. It helps to know where people stand. It’s not a judgment; it simply helps to understand where they are coming from and why they think like they do. Sometimes, it’s a fascinating discovery. Sometimes, you’ll go crazy trying to connect their dots. But, it’s their dots. They have the responsibility to clearly communicate their thoughts and ideas to us. We must make every effort to understand the truth about the meaning of the words they are using with us.

We have elected a lot of “nice guys and gals” who either knowingly or unknowingly are destroying our country. The office of the President of the United States should not be the only office which is typically vetted by someone. Everyone should be vetting anyone who runs for office. If you don’t know where they stand on issues, how do you know they’re going to represent

you? Isn't that the purpose of electing someone? Don't you want them to be looking out for your best interest, not theirs?

The vast majority of people in both my scenarios sit on the sidelines and do not want to get involved. They are the 80% of society who generally let the other 20% handle the decisions that must be made. When folks on the sidelines pipe in, they are often clueless on the topic and are fully exposed for their lack of depth in understanding of what is really going on. They are the ones who, at best, are trying to calm the caustic rhetoric being fired from both sides, but who have no opinions nor care about the outcome, who often increase the vitriol. That's just life.

So how gullible is America? That question is being answered every single day. We must be vigilant in understanding what people truly mean when they are speaking and not "assume" they are using the same definition of words we are. If they are representing the Old Guard, the TEA Party, the Libertarians, Islam, or who or whatever, you need to know their definition *and* what their agenda really is if you're going to truly communicate and act accordingly.

Will we learn?

Until next time. . . .

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