



Next, we will hear from the Handicapped, Trans-gender Vegetarians...

FDR, in promoting his NEW DEAL, approved the message: "A chicken in every pot... a car in every garage." In the depths of the Depression, it was a notion that had real meaning, resonating with millions of Americans.

Decades before FDR, another Democrat running for president, William Jennings Bryan, warned voters that the Republican leadership was intent upon crucifying Americans upon a cross of gold. Millions understood -- and had felt the pain of -- exactly what he meant.

Somewhere in the late '60's -- early '70's, progressive leaders lost track of the notion that the progressive message must unify Americans around goals which they all could share.... that had meaning for their lives, regardless of their diverse backgrounds and lifestyles.

I cannot now recall exactly when I realized it had changed. Perhaps it was at a political event -- perhaps an anti-War rally... Perhaps one of the early Earth Day events. During activities, I noticed that every possible interest group was getting their 15 minutes at the microphone. It did not matter if they had much unique to offer. People were waiting for a guiding message or a rallying cry. But, instead, the events were often devolving into a mish mosh of competing grievances. All slightly different manifestations of the core problem...

But never focused upon addressing the core problem.

Inclusion was generating Confusion.

Why did this trend toward cultural/way of life inclusion replace a bread-and-butter focus?

I believe the Militarization and related Globalization of the US economy following the second world war offered a prosperity that senior Democratic Party leadership was happy to go along with, losing long-term focus upon core progressive issues.

In an in-depth analysis of the history of this transition, Jonathan Schlefer, in his Washington Post article of June 14, How conservatives drove a wedge between economic

and cultural liberals, suggests it is not only that Democratic leadership moved away from real progressive policy for fear of alienating the new global banking and business gurus they depended upon, but also that the forces of wealth actively cultivated the separation between cultural and economic progressives.

I recommend you read his article. At:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2022/06/14/how-conservatives-drove-wedge-between-economic-cultural-liberals/>

For the purposes of this essay, a brief slide show will illustrate the slide into ineffectiveness:

- LBJ (1) self-destructed when he tried to be FDR at home, and Billy-Bad-Ass in Asia.
- Carter and team, in the face of recession, had no solution to America's reliance on foreign oil. He, and the Democrats, had become beholden to the global oil consortia, and acted to protect the Shah of Iran, at the insistence of international bankers. Disaster followed...
- Clinton's plan to revive the Democratic Party was to make a deal with the *New Democratic Council's* Globalization and Market Economy guys. He turned into a booster for NAFTA.
- Obama continued in this vein; allowed the Wall St crooks off the hook after the financial collapse of 2007-08, offering only the lame excuse that a nation needs a financial system. And, worse, he doubled down on the Global Vision/Market policy by selling the anti-labor Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Since a message was needed to replace real Progressive vision, Inclusion took the place of core economic policy... For the purposes of this essay, a brief slide show will illustrate the slide into ineffectiveness:

The corporate Democrats cut off Bernie at the knees, and... well, you know what happened next ...

This descent into confusion is forcing a disconnect with the working-class base that had given us a run of success during which Social Security, labor organization rights, medical insurance laws, Civil Rights legislation, high corporate taxation rates, etc., etc., had come into being.

All which had changed the American society for the better... IF you were among the 99.9% of American people.

Now, the descendants of the exceedingly small number of men who had owned everything before FDR; who had condemned him as a traitor to his class; see the very

real possibility that they can undue all the New Deal. They have used the Democrats' failure to stay focused and are driving wedges into the large Democrat voting bloc.

The playbook is simple. The MAD MEN enjoying the Republican's billions are nothing if not crafty. It is so easy to spin one group's INCLUSION as another group's EXCLUSION. The NEW DEAL benefits suddenly were not as sweet to white working people once they were "warned" that the Democrats were about to give it all away to Black workers.

Tolerance of other religious outlooks offers immense right-wing value when re-caste as 'The war on Christmas.' Fair judicial treatment becomes 'soft on crime.'

The list goes on... Trying to parse every segment of modern America's injustices into yet another new action plan simply distracts everyone from the core issue: Privatization of the nation's wealth (2) -- the destruction of an American COMMONWEALTH vision -- drives most of the injustice and imbalance in this country.

So now, 50 years later, we find the Democrat Party setting itself up to fail. Telling a white farm family in Pig's Creek Tennessee that Black Lives Matter is not a winning strategy. Where do you go next if they say, "OK, but... so what? I have my own problems." Worse still, there are those in the Democratic Party's national leadership who are convinced a *Republican Lite* Strategy is best. (3)

Today, working people are being crucified on a cross of bad loans and exported jobs.

A chicken in every pot still means a lot more to working people than "It's a small world, after all."

The goal should not be to bake into the USA's social contract an accommodation for every racial/social/cultural/religious entity. The goal is to take and maintain control of how the country's wealth is created and distributed. To end the slide back into a *neo-Liberal* economy nightmare where everything is privately owned and 'on the market'.

The focus must be on stopping the descent into a street fight for every crumb that falls off the corporate table. To remind people they are citizens, not consumers; that this is a democracy, not "the market".

We need voices that return us to a notion of the commonwealth that promotes the general welfare, and insures the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Do that, and we will find it possible to manage tolerance and acceptance for the handicapped transgender vegetarians, and all the others.

1) One aspect of this loss of support was unavoidable. LBJ told the men standing beside him as he signed the Civil Rights Bill of 1967 that he had just lost the South for the Democratic Party for a whole generation.

Nixon's (or rather, his handlers') SOUTHERN STRATEGY did just that. In one election cycle, the 'solid south' that had always gone Democrat flip flopped and the Republicans have carried the whole south since.

(2) Wealth = the nation's waterways, water table, soil, land, forests, air, labor, and ideas.

(3) Review the story of the Democratic Leadership Council, including their darling, Bill Clinton. [Democratic Leadership Council story.](#)