Fallout from the Mueller Report

Well, the much anticipated Mueller Report has been released (or at least one with redacted (blocked-out) parts). To the disappoint of most, the report appears to be objective, based on legal facts. It has something for everybody, yet does not make any unqualified conclusions.

On the other hand many. Biased, unqualified people are making unqualified conclusions. The following sample of political cartoons makes this point:

Well, 2020 promises to be an interesting election year. We must hope that the American electorate can analyze statements from all sides to determine the truth. We know that Trump sees truth only through his own eyes and is not afraid to try to con people. Some are calling for impeachment before the elections based on Trump’s disregard for the law as reported in the Mueller Report. Morally this is what should happen, we should not reward criminal behavior. Trump and the GOP like to pretend to be martyrs (it beats owning up to the truth) and martyrizing is often a successful political strategy. The best strategy is to assume most voters are wise enough to see through the deceit and present solid ideas of how to better govern the nation!  

Words for thought

“Wars are not paid for in wartime, the bill comes later” Ben Franklin

“Never confuse motion with action”. Ben Franklin
Labeling Theory: The Politics of Bigotry and Fascism

As we endure a third year of Trump rule, we are no longer baffled by Trump’s inconsistencies and ramblings. They are consistently self-serving. They resemble a 6-year old’s claim “I didn’t do it. S/he did it”. Frequently, the lies are aimed at disadvantaged groups and members of those groups.

At our southern border, we have thousands of immigrants seeking access to the USA. Most of the immigrants are women and children seeking safety from inhospitable governments and or better economic opportunities. As we can witness from the immigrants who have entered the USA, they are hard working and law-abiding. Yet, Trump says they are dangerous and pose a danger to the safety of American citizens.

Will the “Originalists” on the Wisconsin Supreme Court Be True to their Word?

Most of the conservative leaning hedges in the US court systems justify their actions on the basis that “this is how it is written in the Constitution”. During the lame-duck session of former Wisconsin Governor Scot Walker, the GOP controlled legislature met in a “special session” and passed a number of laws to restrict the powers of the newly elected Democratic Governor and Wisconsin Attorney General. The Special session was special not only because it was not part of the officially published official legislative schedule, but it was called by the legislative branch itself. The Wisconsin Constitution specifically states (Article 4, Section 11 as amended in Nov. 1881 and April 1968):

“The legislature shall meet at the seat of government at such time as shall be provided by law, unless convened by the governor in special session, and when so convened no business shall be transacted except as shall be necessary to accomplish the special purposes for which it was convened.”

The key wording is highlighted. The purpose is to provide for a system of checks and balances in government, giving the Governor power to control and out of control legislature. Arguably this decade has been one governed by an out of control GOP, which controlled both the executive and legislative branches. Walker was such a weak leader that the cozy relationship allowed the legislature to do business as it wanted to and the legislative leaders forgot about the Constitution. The GOP argument is we did this before. The argument does not cut it, should a man accused of fathering several children be forced to pay child support, when in previous incidents, the mother declined to pursue paternity payments?

Several citizen groups have sued the Wisconsin government for passing laws in an illegal legislative session (not called by the governor). Clearly a breach of the Constitution. Although then Governor Walker signed the legislature into law, he did not call the session not did he did he designate its purpose, both of which violated the rights of citizens to be informed of the purpose of the meetings.

While most socialists do not adhere to “originalism” as technology and values change over time (rights to privacy, the power and control of social media, are two examples), there is a recognition of the value in considering the intent of the original writers of Constitutions in making decisions of what is lawful. If the “originalists” on the Wisconsin Supreme Court are people of integrity, who value their vows to protect the original wording of the Wisconsin Constitution, they will strike down the “lame-duck legislation”!

Eric Gruchalski To Speak at May Meeting

Eric Gruchalski has volunteered to Speak about socialist history at our May meeting. Eric is a new member who has been interested and studied the development of socialism. It should be an interesting conversation. Free and all are welcome!