

Founding fathers vs. politicians

Written by Neil A. Davis

Wednesday, 14 July 2010 21:45 -

The Second Continental Congress met on July 1, 1776 to discuss separation of the American colonies from Great Britain. An impassioned speech against separation was delivered by John Dickinson, who felt it to be premature. He blamed their oppression on Parliament and thought reconciliation could still be made with King George. A speech by John Adams was received with more enthusiasm by the majority. Dickinson could not in good conscience vote for the measure, but would not vote against it either and left the meeting. Did he go to join the British? No, he went to join his regiment in New Jersey.

On July 2, Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. After debate and revision, final approval came on July 4. By the time most delegates were actually signing the Declaration on Aug. 2, Dickinson was fighting for the very cause he could not support in Congress.

His unpopularity for not signing the declaration, hampered his advancement in military rank. Because of this, he had an on/off relationship between military service and politics. Dickinson did not discard his principles for popularity's sake nor let his unpopularity prevent him from doing great things.

Some of his accomplishments included: chief justice of Pennsylvania, author of most of the state papers of the Continental Congress, author of the Articles of Confederation, delegate at the Federal Constitutional Convention and signer of the Constitution. He (like the rest) put himself, his family and property at great risk. The bottom line was, all these men were about the future of our country, our freedom and liberty. It was not about their personal agendas.

To compare politicians of today to the founders, seems to me a criminal act. The Democrat party should be wearing orange jumpsuits. Their House members are full-blown socialists. They pass laws in the middle of the night without letting anyone read what's in them. The only concerns these spineless reprobates have are their personal agendas and re-elections. Since the "immaculation" of Obama, the Constitution has been held in total disregard. Four members of the Supreme Court voted against the First and Second Amendments. They are now pushing a court nominee (Elena Kagan) who believes we have no rights, save those given to us by government. When she reads the declaration, the words "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" don't appear. I don't believe the oppression we face from this group, to be any less than that which the colonists faced. How about these words from the declaration—governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

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To celebrate the 100th anniversary of our independence, France gave us the Statue of Liberty. It was a gift of mutual respect for freedom and democracy. It was also a symbol of the French people's pride for their part in our revolution. Two weeks ago Obama tried to turn it into the Statue of Immigration. I'm tired of him trying to re-write our history.

After passage of the declaration, John Adams wrote a letter to his wife saying, the day should be "solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more." Enjoy your fireworks while you can. Under Obama, the E.P.A. is probably looking at banning them.