

FORUM

Country suffers from lack of morality

Some 200 years ago Ben Franklin explained that the Constitutional Convention had wrought a republic, if we can keep it. As inheritors of this noble republic, we would do well to ask "What must we do to keep this republic?"

John Adams declared that our system of government only works with a righteous people; it cannot work any other way.

Commentary

Therefore, to keep our dear republic with all our rights and liberties, we must be righteous. By righteous, the author means a quality of life resulting from compliance to the principles of truth and liberty.

Let us now examine the state of the union in reference to righteousness.

We start by looking at family. Family life is the basic unit and bedrock foundation of society — a dismal picture greets our eyes.

We see children abused by those who should love them. The broken bones, the shattered self-esteems and the rapes all cry to us.

As we broaden our view we

see divorce court dockets filled to overflowing as, in many places, two selfish people refuse to act their age and solve their problems.

No area shows how far we are from a righteous people than the wholesale abuse of this gift of life. Fornication is rampant, as are gutless cries of "protecting" yourself.

Adultery, which sears the soul and destroys the family, is almost an accepted way of life. As Hitler gave us Auschwitz and Stalin the gulag, so Blackmun, Brennan, Burger, Douglas, Powell, and Marshall gave us Roe vs. Wade.

So far twenty million-plus unborn children have been offered on the altar of "liberty" to the God of lust. The stench of the sexual revolution fills our nostrils and tells us righteousness is not found here.

Our country is \$3 trillion in debt with no end in sight. Congress, obviously feeling they know best, has spent my future, my children's future and my grandchildren's future.

Then there is the cowardice of the elected bodies. Survivalist by nature, the Congress refused to take a stand on the varied items which make up to-

day's controversy. Instead, they shuck it off to the judges.

In the broad social life of America, righteousness has taken it in the shorts, also. Crimes against blacks, the homeless, the elderly, women and religious groups climb at horrifying rates.

Pornography, whether verbal or visual, is a cancer spreading through our land. Amazingly, the pornographers are defended by misguided zealots while rape victims live through the hell their assailants have made for them.

Let us acknowledge that as currently constituted, America is an unrighteous people.

What does this mean? History tells us Greece and Rome were thriving republics — until they ceased to be righteous.

Someone said "America is great because it is good and if it ceases to be good it will cease to be great." As we have seen, America has ceased to be good. Therefore, the last, best hope in Earth is in danger of joining previous democracies in the ash bins of history.

Remember, a free country is a terrible thing to waste.

William R. Gaskill is a student of political science.

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