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*Challenging People to Shape  
a Better Future Now*

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# Opinion

## Looking to 2020 – Put Your Vote to WORK!

If you work for a living but  
are somewhat up in the air  
about who to vote for in  
2020 or for that matter, if  
you should even bother get-  
ting to that crowded polling  
place, I'd like to ask that you  
indulge me for a minute.

Because I've got a story  
to tell you that might help  
with your decision. A story  
of working people and pol-  
iticians who are working  
against all of us – everyday.

I'd like to go back to 1980,  
the year that Ronald Reagan  
was campaigning to the 40th  
president of the United States.  
Much of his rhetoric was de-  
signed to appeal to labor and  
the working men and women  
of this country, promising to  
protect jobs, to support pol-  
icies that would create more  
jobs and put unemployed  
Americans back to work.

### Promises betrayed

The reality of his presiden-  
cy and his policies came down  
somewhat differently.

In fact, President Reagan's  
eight years in office were  
devastating for labor and the  
middle class. He was a cham-  
pion of deregulation, which  
systematically weakened  
workplace safety standards  
and record-keeping. He spe-  
cifically went after labor by  
appointing three manage-  
ment-friendly National Labor  
Relations Board (NLRB) mem-  
bers, causing the NLRB to de-  
part from its legal obligation  
to actively promote collective  
bargaining – the constitu-  
tional right and underlying  
principle for the existence of  
unions. During his presiden-  
cy, NLRB caseloads were dras-  
tically cut and the cases that



Ray Curry

*Secretary-  
Treasurer,  
UAW*

did go forward went from the  
recent 33 percent finding in  
favor of employers to 75 per-  
cent favoring employers.

His economic policies shift-  
ed the tax burden away from  
the wealthy and onto the back  
of middle-class Americans.

So, why am I bringing up

“Clearly, it  
should serve  
as a dire  
warning of  
what is to  
come should  
we continue  
with the sta-  
tus quo

this sad history here in the  
last days of 2019?

Because Ronald Reagan,  
who turned his back on orga-  
nized labor and started Amer-  
ica's middle-class into a tail-  
spin from which it has never  
recovered, has recently been  
voted by this administration's  
hand-picked NLRB into the  
Labor Hall of Fame. I think  
that speaks volumes. Clearly,  
they have taken a page from  
the Old Gipper's playbook.  
And clearly, it should serve  
as a dire warning of what is  
to come should we continue

with the status quo.

### Stacked against us

Today, an NLRB even more  
conservative than President  
Reagan's has moved as fast as  
it could to make it more diffi-  
cult for unions to organize.  
In December of 2017, the  
board overturned a rule that  
had made it easier to organize  
smaller units of workers in  
big factories and stores.

Another decision made it  
tougher for workers at fast-  
food restaurants and other  
franchised operations to  
unionize. What's more, this  
board is further encroaching  
on labor by looking to slow  
unionization elections, a  
move that, as we all know too  
well, would give corporations  
more time to pressure work-  
ers to vote NO.

Here at the UAW, we saw  
those stalling hijinks in ac-  
tion in Chattanooga this sum-  
mer with the effort to orga-  
nize Volkswagen and give its  
workers a real say in their  
work lives.

This administration hasn't  
stopped at turning the NLRB  
into the Chamber of Com-  
merce. Let's look at the Su-  
preme Court.

Justice Neil Gorsuch was  
confirmed in the first few  
months of this administra-  
tion and he delivered the  
conservative anti-labor edge  
to the Janus case almost as  
soon as he was installed. Gor-  
such, who had close ties with  
groups that bankrolled Janus,  
cast the deciding vote in a de-  
cision that prohibited public  
sector unions from collecting  
fees from non-members.

This devastating decision  
reversed 41 years of prece-

dent and overturned laws  
in the 22 states that have not  
adopted “Right-to-Work” pol-  
icies. And all signs indicate  
that, when he is not drinking  
beer, the administration's sec-  
ond appointee, Justice Bret  
Kavanaugh will be just as aw-  
ful.

The Huffington Post in siz-  
ing him up as anti-labor, re-  
counted the time when a New  
York manufacturer created  
a new spinoff company to  
avoid bargaining with union-  
ized workers. Federal regula-  
tors and a panel of appellate  
judges said the manufacturer  
broke the law and violated its  
employees' rights.

There was, however, one  
judge who dissented in the  
appeals decision and sided  
with the employer: Brett Ka-  
vanaugh.

Say no more.

### Supremely anti-labor

A Legal Aid lawyer put it  
this way, “Along with [Justice  
Neil] Gorsuch, [Brett Kava-  
naugh] is the ideal of a Koch  
brothers judge. He'll be an-  
ti-labor and anti-worker.”

Of course, just as disturbing  
when it comes to the courts is  
this fact: While the Supreme  
Court gets the attention, it's  
the lower courts that decide  
the bulk of the cases. In lock-  
step with the anti-worker  
overhaul of our courts, more  
pro-management judges have  
been appointed to the fed-  
eral appeals courts than at  
any other time in our recent  
history, and one out of every  
four circuit court judges have  
been installed by the current  
administration.

Read the rest of this commentary at  
**TheSkanner.com**

## A Sharp Tongue Cuts from the Inside Out

Growing up, I was never  
a student of the Bible  
even though I grew up  
surrounded by the best  
kind of Christians there were:  
the love-filled family kind.

I believe I am now being  
constantly moved by the Holy  
Spirit (I hope) to see the sim-  
plicity in the scripture I now  
study. As such, I am finding  
myself gravitating to min-  
isters, pastors and saints as  
they dissect in sermon and  
prayer the incredible power  
of the tongue; yes, that small  
but dangerously lethal weap-  
on housed in one's mouth.

Without any biblical per-  
spective, history confirms  
the ability of deceit-filled el-  
oquence to entice weak men  
to murder, married women  
to stray, prideful men to war  
and so-called peace-loving  
folk to slaughter.

On a daily basis, a reckless  
tongue can sear forever the  
spirit of an innocent child, a  
wanting spouse, a true friend



James A.  
Washington

*Publisher,  
The Dallas  
Weekly*

or a caring co-worker. Evil or-  
atory moves men and women  
to do evil things.

But oh, how powerful, how  
wonderful is a well-inten-

“‘Reckless  
words pierce  
like a sword  
but the tongue  
of the wise  
brings heal-  
ing’

tioned ‘thank you’, a sincere  
‘I’m sorry’ or a genuine ‘I be-  
lieve in you.’

James 3:10 tells us that the

tongue wields the power of  
life and death. Having been  
the target of ill-intended crit-  
icism, and out of momentary  
anger or hurt having tried  
to destroy the souls of many  
I held dear, I know first-hand  
that James is so right.

I have been trying to correct  
this character flaw by being as  
deliberately uplifting as pos-  
sible, thinking of myself as a  
vessel of the living God first  
before I speak and remem-  
bering that man was made in  
God's own image and curs-  
ing any man is tantamount to  
cursing God.

Could it be that James 1:26  
holds a key to salvation? “...  
If anyone considers himself  
religious and yet does not  
keep a rein on his tongue, he  
deceives himself and his reli-  
gion is worthless...”

I submit to you that if you  
compare the words of Jesus  
Christ to any demagogue, you  
will find that Jesus' words re-  
pulse with great power all ha-

tred, gossip, rumor and even  
innuendo. It is impossible to  
claim to love God without lov-  
ing Jesus as the living Word  
of God. Saying so merely con-  
firms the truth in this case  
that the spoken Word will in-  
deed set one free.

“Reckless words pierce like  
a sword but the tongue of the  
wise brings healing.” Prov-  
erbs 12:14. I'm told God hates  
a liar and loves the truth. Re-  
member there is no cure for  
hurt feelings except an honest  
spoken apology. Hurt feelings  
fester and infect a person.

Think before you speak.  
And please don't take my  
word for it. “He who guards  
his lips, guards his life, but he  
who speaks rashly will come  
to ruin.” Proverbs 12:3.

May God bless and keep you  
always.

*James A. Washington is a  
father, husband, Christian,  
writer, entrepreneur and the  
owner/publisher of the Dallas  
Weekly.*