

June, 2010

Just an Average American

If there is an Average American, I think I'm pretty much it, I certainly perceive myself that way. I'm of average height, weight, IQ, income, education and basic perceptions of reality; certainly in my eyes I am absolutely nothing special, just an "average Joe".

The challenge with being average is that we don't often get written about, certainly not read. No doubt surprising to many in Washington, I have a thought or two and one quick question, when did we sign up for Unconditional Tolerance in America?

Consider for a moment a situation in which I am hitting you as hard as I can about the head and shoulders with a very big stick. Now what would you prefer: would you want me to stop; or just slow down a little bit?

The average American would choose that the beating stop - quick answer, doesn't require much thinking. You too might agree, and may even go as far as to presume that no one would ever blame you for choosing to stop a beating over just slowing one down; but it appears would be wrong.

The state of Arizona (along with California and others) has been taking a financial and physical beating for decades by way of a persistent and insidious occupation by a sovereign bordering nation incapable of managing its affairs. Arizona decided that taking a slow beating, as they have, is just too painful; it hurts, costs money and innocent people die. So the legally elected representatives of that state, in the honorable performance of their sworn duty, have sought protection through the law. In effect, they decided the beating should stop.

Astonishingly, however, President Barack Obama and his above average administration feel otherwise. The president quickly ran to denounce the actions of Arizona, and his administration has since shown amazing comfort in voicing similar opinions without actually reading or understanding the facts. This is the hallmark of Obama's administration in which factual evidence in support of an opinion is an elective, and as we saw in the health care bill, best avoided all together.

As amazing and disturbing as it sounds, the President of the United States is saying that in the name of tolerance, Arizonans should choose to continue the beating rather than stop it. Behold the policy of Unconditional Tolerance. Because this policy is now fully implemented in this administration, I thought an average American definition is in order, so here is mine:

Unconditional Tolerance – An unrestricted expectation placed upon the many by a few, to accept, value, accommodate, embrace and appease other cultures, lifestyles, viewpoints, opinions and actions even if in so doing, one is required to abandon: common sense, laws of science and evidence, our individual values, security and personal safety.

From an average American perspective, this is shocking. How can the security of some Americans become less important than the ideals of a few? When did choosing not to take a beating become un-American, or racist, or ignorant, or foolish?

Elsewhere, average Americans are choosing that the financial beating they receive by way of taxes required funding an unnecessary debt, is not one they want to support. The folks in the Tea Party movement are being told that they should shut up and agree to take a slow unnecessary beating, as long as the government desires.

Sadly, this is not new, these are the very people who in an earlier age would have been seated in the bleachers of the Roman Coliseum, complaining that 'all the good gladiators are dead' or that 'the only reasons the Christians remain standing is because the Lions are not as healthy as they use to be'. These are the "above average" people who talk effortlessly about process and tolerance, ignoring as they did back then, the fact that those on the floor of the Coliseum (or streets in Arizona) are human.

So to the self-proclaimed, above average in Washington and anywhere else they may be I offer this; do not dismiss my intentions to restrict the effects you can place upon my life. Here are a few things upon which we can all agree because they are unambiguously true, and there is nothing anyone can do to change it: should I get sick, you cannot do my healing for me, should I lose a loved one to disease, or accident or violence, you cannot do my grieving for me, and in the end when I am soon to die, you cannot do my dying for me.

So do not expect me to take a beating so that you can feel better about yourself, and do not expect me to accept that tolerance is unconditional or that I am less an American for thinking so.

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