

Not silly, secession talk is serious

Pete Riehm

Alabama Governor Bentley joined Texas Governor Rick Perry to say their states would not secede. All 50 states now have secession petitions and backlash petitions are being filed to exile those who support secession, and so the nonsensical name calling continues to devolve. The online spectacle is becoming somewhat silly, but the underlying reasons propelling this incredibly intense frustration are very serious. In the national arena, half the nation has been disenfranchised. They feel they have no voice in Washington anymore, so why should they stay?

One of the most aggravating factors is the absence of fair play in the national mainstream media. These supposed umpires of truth are hopelessly compromised and corrupted. If every conservative pitch is a ball and every liberal pitch is a strike and all conservatives runners are always out and liberal runners are always safe, why would anyone continue playing?! Conservative ideas virtually get no hearing on the national stage much less any form of fairness. This corrosion of free speech not only rots the Constitution; the endless futility weakens the very foundation of the union.

Liberals were decimated in 2010, but this very close defeat for conservatives feels much worse. With constant doubts about Republican commitment to conservative principles, Speaker Boehner confirmed those doubts before all the votes were even counted. He told the president Republicans are ready to raise taxes and with that he told the conservative base Republicans are preparing to lose the next two elections. So, who is ready to fight in the national trenches for another 2 years to give Boehner another opportunity to surrender?

The past four years is also prelude to perhaps much more than the next four years. The Obama administration did not compromise on anything! Obamacare was jammed through by legislative tricks and not one single Republican vote. The Democrats never cede their positions; and to them and the media, bipartisanship is when conservatives surrender their values. Republicans still have the House, but President Obama happily goes around Congress when it suits him. If the House impedes his agenda, he simply flaunts the Constitution and issues an Executive Order. So, exactly why do we have a Congress and care about electing them if they have ceded their legislative role to the executive?

Liberals may cheer this now, but the Congress is the epitome of the people's voice in our federal government and those voices are being silenced. When the Congress, read the people, abandons its powers and fails to restrain executive encroachment, they hand dictatorial power to the president. How long should the people tolerate that?

If the picture is not already bleak for conservatives, no one wants to mention the Supreme Court. Chief Justice John Roberts has proven himself completely unreliable and Obama will probably get at least two Supreme Court appointments. YIKES! This bunch already has disconnected their interpretations from the founder's intent, do you reckon they will even refer to it anymore?

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With the deck stacked against conservatives on the national scene, that is not even the worst of this deteriorating situation. Conservatives want to restore our Constitutional Republic based on individual liberty and capitalism and liberals are determined and dedicated to making America a progressive socialist state. These visions and goals for America not only incompatible; they are irreconcilable. The concept of private property cannot coexist with the concept of community property. One must conquer the other.

While liberals deride the secessionists and most Americans simply shake their heads in resignation and despair at our inability to work together, all Americans ignore the reasons for the secession talk at the peril of the very union to which they reconfirm their allegiance. Yes, Democrats won the election and retain power, but almost half the country disagreed and dissented strongly. The Democrats and media want to proceed like that half does not matter; conservatives lost, so abandon all and go along. Even many Republicans are telling conservatives to go to the back of the bus.

Conservatives are not going to forfeit their rights or concede their convictions, but if that half of the nation is disdained and disregarded, their voices denied, and a whole segment of America disenfranchised from the federal government, then secession talk will continue to find ever more fertile ground and as those seeds sprout and grow they will continue to crack the foundation of our nation.

It doesn't have to be this way. Instead of a federal government forcing one size fits all, its time to revisit the Tenth Amendment so the vastly differing views from state to state can continue to coexist in a peaceful and mutually beneficial union.