Censorship and More by Phil Rasmussen

For weeks now we have heard of how big Tech has implemented Cancel Culture in its effort to silence conservative voices and those they disagree with.

Such behavior is not only despicable but is also a violation of the First Amendment. Most of you reading this commentary will agree with me while some won't. That is okay because you have the right to either agree or disagree. Regardless of your agreement or not, let us take a closer look at this situation and what it may portent.

There are three documents that have been the basis for our democracy since the contemplation of Independence. All three documents are the phoenix that arose out of the fire of tyranny and oppression and formed the basis of our nation. The first document is our <u>Declaration of Independence</u>.

Please note that I did not write "was the <u>Declaration of Independence</u> but rather **our** declaration. This declaration belongs to each of us. While not "legally" binding, it signifies that we are a free people. Let's examine the first portion of the preamble:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Preamble to our **Declaration of Independence**

The first key word we read is "truths." Truths are facts or beliefs that are accepted as being true, real, or actual. In other words, they are not false nor are they fake.

Next we read "self-evident." This means that the truths do not need to be demonstrated or explained, that they are obvious. I know that some people just cannot see truth when it is right before their eyes. The mind is a tricky thing in that it can block out or twist the reality of events that happen. This

happens all the time when horrendous crimes or events happen. Witnesses to crimes often have different "stories" or "facts." Sometimes, whole groups of people are in denial of events that occur. For example, the genocide of a group of people, or even the use of slave labor by political prisoners.

Our next word to look at is "Creator." Throughout mankind's history there has always existed the belief that force or entity created man. The first settlers to our country, came here to escape tyranny and religious oppression. The settlers believed in God, our creator and this was still evident in 1776 when the above preamble was written. However there are those who proclaim that we "evolved" as a matter of science. The funny thing is that these proclaimers, without realizing it, have made science their god, but not the God. They have made their idolatry of science a violation of the <u>Ten Commandments</u>, one of the major tenets that our democracy is based on.

Today, the proclaimers still continue their contention, but we have also seen the rise of another god that has been placed higher on the pedestal than our Creator, and that is the god of "power" that is claimed by big Tech and many politicians.

Our Creator has endowed each of us with a set of "unalienable rights. This phrase means that we have rights that cannot be taken away, denied or transferred to another person or group. Those rights include Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. Life and liberty are intertwined. Essentially these two rights mean that you have the right to pursue important things to your life such as food, medicine and safe living conditions without necessarily the permission of government. You have the right to be secure in your life to make the decisions and take the actions needed to ensure survival.

To understand "the pursuit of happiness" we need to consider the time period that the declaration was written in. Today, pursuit means to chase after or seeking something. In 1776, the phrase did not mean that you had the right to chase after happiness but that you had the right to actually be happy.

In order for Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness to exist, it is necessary to recognize one other aspect of the preamble. That aspect is

toward the beginning where it states that "all men are created equal." This means that all of us have these rights. What we do with them however is our choice. We can make the most of each right or not, it's called free will. However it does not mean that what we do or decide to do, can be imposed on another person's rights.

The second document of importance is the "birth certificate" of our nation. It is our <u>Constitution of the United States</u>. Unlike our <u>Declaration of</u> <u>Independence</u>, our Constitution is a legally binding document that binds both the people and government. Just as the preamble in the <u>Declaration</u> <u>of Independence</u>, provides us with certain rights, so does the preamble of our Constitution.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Preamble to our <u>Constitution of the United States</u>

Our Constitution is easy to read, however it is a complex document that forms the basis of all laws, both federal and state, for every person in the United States. There are many people who believe that it should be abolished and rewritten. There are also many people who want to rewrite portions of our Constitution to fit their personal and political agendas.

Since 1787, many amendments and other changes have been made to it. Making it more complicated have been the laws that Congress has passed, executive orders by presidents, and Supreme Court decisions. To some extent, many of the laws need to be cleaned up, combined and/or modified.

Just as we did with our Declaration, we can go through the preamble of our Constitution. However I will leave that to you. Instead it is important to discuss two points in the preamble.

The first three words are "We the People." That means the Constitution is for and by the people. It is not for just a few, or for government, or any political party/group. It is for the PEOPLE. As such, we the people need to

take it back from the few, the government, and the political parties and groups who want to abolish it or make major changes to it.

The second point revolves around "in Order to form a more perfect Union." It is important to note the word "**more**." This phrase does not mean that the government is perfect. No government is perfect. However it does mean that we, the people, will work and strive to make the government more workable for all of us, not just any group or political party. The objective is not to change the form of government that we have but rather build on it.

The third document of importance is our <u>Bill of Rights</u>, ratified in 1791. This document is not well understood. There are been 27 amendments made to our Constitution. However the first 10 amendments are called our <u>Bill of Rights</u>.

Our <u>Bill of Rights</u> specifically spells out ten rights that every American has with regard to their relation to our government. Specific rights and liberties for every individual are delineated.

Of all 27 amendments that have been made, only two categorically state that government cannot infringe on or make law that prohibits any part of those amendments. And yet that is exactly what the current administration and Congress wants to do now.

The first and second amendments are protected from government interference of any kind. Read them carefully below:

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.

Both amendments are under fire by big Tech, the current Congress, and the President of the United States – Joe Biden, and Vice President – Kamala Harris.

Let's look at another item that is actually part of our Constitution. It can be found in Article II, Section 1, Clause 8.1. This is the "Oath of Office" that the president takes.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

But president are not the only ones who have to take an "Oath of Office." Article VI, Clause 3 of our Constitution stipulates that:

"The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial OFFICERS, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States."

The Oath of Office for Congress

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.

Not only do the senators and representative take the oath orally, they must also have to sign a printed copy of it. Additionally, each time a member is re-elected they have to take assert their oath with each new term of office. That means that long-time senators and representative have repeated their oath with each time they had been elected to the office of senator or representative. Yet many of the Democrats in both houses of Congress, have and are violating their oaths. There are also a few Republicans as well.

Our Constitution's requirement for an "Oath of Office" is codified in 2 U.S. Code §25 and 5 U.S. Code §3331. The codes require every elected or appointed person in the government, civil service and the uniformed services to take the following oath:

I, ____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

Throughout these various oaths of office is the common thread is that each individual stating the oath will:

- support and defend our Constitution, and
- will be faithful to and pledge allegiance to it.

The problem is that many of our representatives, senators, and members of the executive branch do not value their oath, which In turn means that they don't value themselves, our people, or our Nation.

This is very obvious and is demonstrated by their involvement in attempting to censor free speech and make it difficult for Americans to own and use firearms. Their actions violate both the First and Second Amendments, and other laws.

According to 5 U.S. Code §7311, the violation of "Oath of Office" is a federal <u>criminal</u> offense. 18 U.S. Code §1918 also provides the penalties for violating the oath and includes both:

- removal from office and;
- confinement or a fine.

Further, Executive Order 10450 states that it is also a criminal violation of 5 U.S. Code §7311 if any government official who has taken the Oath of Office takes any action which alters the form of government other by amendment.

In the case of Walker v Members of Congress, the intent was to compel Congress to obey the law and call for an Article V Convention. Congress, as a group, refused to obey the law. This should have sparked an outcry but like a lot of other important legal issues it was not widely discussed in the media and by default, has somewhat nullify the law and has given permission to Congress to disobey our Constitution and thus overthrow our constitutional form of government. This is exactly what Congress is now doing with regard to the 1st and 2nd Amendments.

In 1791, Congress signed into law our "Bill of Rights." This document consisted of the first ten (10) amendments to our Constitution.

The first two amendments are the **only** amendments to our Constitution that forbids government infringement or change. Let's review these two amendments again.

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.

Note that both amendments state that the government shall NOT make any changes to them. This means that they are your rights and cannot be taken away.

Cancel Culture and other groups want to take away your rights in both Amendments. This also includes the Democratic House of

Representatives, the Democratic Senate, and the president and vice president. They all willingly violate their oaths of office and the laws of our Constitution to push their agenda for power over people and government.

Our founding fathers established these two amendments as the first two in our "Bill of Rights" for a reason. Although independence has been won, they responding to the British tyranny of government which wanted to curb dissention among the people, religious choice, and the other aspects found in the First Amendment. They were also responding to the British tyranny of trying to confiscate firearms in order to squelch any demonstrations, dissention, or protests arising from the areas listed in the First Amendment.

There are 16 forms of government (see below). With the exception of a few, the remaining forms rely on controlling the "masses." In order to control the masses you need to take away their ability to rise up and overthrow the government. While various methods are used, it almost always starts with controlling who has and doesn't have weapons.

Everyone needs to realize that the 2nd Amendment backs up the first. Whether you support the ownership and use of firearms or not, if you don't support the 2nd, you will definitely loose the 1st.

- **NO** choice of religion
- **NO** freedom of speech,
- **NO** freedom of the press;
- **NO** right to assemble;
- NO way to petition Government ;
- NO way to a redress grievances.

This is what you will loose!

16 Forms of Government

1. Republic

A government whose authority is based on citizen's votes, which are represented by elected or nominated officials chosen in free elections.

2. Democracy

Democracy means 'rule of the people' The term today refers to a political system in which the people or their elected representatives govern themselves

3. Theocracy

A government where priests rule in the name of God or by officials who are regarded as divinely guided, or consistent with the principles of a particular religion.

4 Autocracy

A government controlled by absolute power, & in the hands of a single person with minimal restraints on the decision & lack of any mechanism of popular control

5. Technocracy

A government where scientists & technical experts are in control of the state & where rulers are selected on the basis of their knowledge/skill rather than wealth /power.

6. Fascism

It is a way of ruling that advocates total control of the people and seeks to promote the ancestral & cultural values & eradicate foreign influences

7 Anarchy

Anarchy is a state of absence of law, a state of lawlessness and disorder (usually resulting from a failure of government)

8 Monarchy

A government where supreme authority is vested in a single & usually hereditary figure, such as a king, & whose powers can vary from absolute to none at all

9. Oligarchy

Rule of the few. It is a form of power structure in which power effectively rests with a faction of persons or families.

10. Plutocracy

Government rule by the rich or power provided by wealth, often used to describe a wealthy class ruling a government, often from behind the scenes.

11. Tyranny

Government or authority of an absolute ruler; arbitrary exercise of power

over subjects nor requisite for the purposes of government/approved by law and justice.

12. Totalitarian

A totalitarian system is the one in which a single political authority regulates total control over state, that is centralized and dictatorial

13. Federation

A political organization characterized by union of small states, groups or parties, which are self-governed in internal affairs & are united under a central government.

14. Socialism/Communism

As a system of government, socialism/communism is a system of government in which the state owns and operates industry on behalf of the people

15. Junta

It refers to a group or coalition that takes control of the state after overthrowing a government. Usually this is done by a military groups

16. Dictatorship

A form of government where the power rests entirely on one person or a group of persons. This rule could be acquired by inheritance of force & is usually oppressive