

July 15, 2020

As the legislature goes into special session I felt it was important for you to hear from a law abiding, taxpaying citizen of this state. I am only speaking for myself but I can assure you the topics in this letter are agreed to by a very large number of voters who are in my social circle.

You don't hear from us because we aren't using the threat of physical violence to get our way. This country has experienced an incredible change in public policy that has been in reaction to a threat of violence from certain groups. We are slipping down a slippery slope when the threat of violence results in public policy changes.

What is next? Will a pro-life group be allowed to paint their message in the street? Will they be allowed to take over an abortion clinic and restrict movement in and out? How about those in support of gun rights? How about those opposed to taxes? Threaten to commit violence and disruption is being demonstrated as the new method to "get your way". Be careful. This will spread to other groups if its successful!

There is nothing about a police officer committing a crime in a far away state that reflects negatively on our law enforcement community. The failure, on many levels, to stand behind our police officers has been shameful. Instead of supporting them, we want to take away resources, accuse them of unproven wrongdoing and rush into policy changes. Police violence is NOT epidemic despite what a few groups are pushing. Crime in poor neighborhoods IS epidemic. You can't even compare those numbers. I challenge you to present violence statistics to the legislature and even a press conference. Facts must not be left hidden.

The sad irony of all this is the urban police departments will be treated like garbage: maybe their funding will be reduced; maybe they will have to succumb to more restrictions on how they can protect themselves as they protect us. BUT we all know the Capitol Police won't have their force reduced, Judges will still demand decorum in the court room, all while crime rates will skyrocket in those poor neighborhoods that the legislature will pretend to care about.

Let's look at the real reason certain groups are attempting to discredit police forces. Look at Seattle and look at what is happening to commemorative statutes and buildings. There are groups looking to take advantage of lawlessness. Please don't follow other large cities who are feeding their young ones to the cycle of violence.

Somehow we have lost our right to debate. We can no longer suggest an opinion that is contrary to the current "message". This is a very scary time - (1) because we are on the edge of violence that is being used to control us and (2) we are losing our freedom to speak - any comment not accepted by certain groups will result in a guilty conviction of the dreaded label; "racist", all without any sort of due process.

We need you to stand up to anarchy. Don't be on the wrong side of history. Do not allow those whose future is rooted in anarchy to be successful. Do not perpetuate the system of silencing differing opinions.

We can address civil rights concerns without losing the best country in the world. Speak to immigrants who left their country for exactly the reasons that we are experiencing right now.

I apologize for the length of this letter. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Thank you

 Thomas Calvello

"He who dares not offend cannot be honest." Thomas Paine