

## Is Government Still For the People??

158 years ago President Abraham Lincoln stated in his Gettysburg Address- “that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom<sup>[8]</sup>—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.<sup>[6][9]</sup>”

Today, I am asking myself if this statement still holds true. Is this government really for the people? Let me share with you a couple of examples as to why one might call into question where we really are with our government.

Last March, I was helping my daughter with her Form 1040. It was the dead of winter in Montana and she had also accepted a new job that required a move across the state- in some not-so- great weather. Oh, and this Covid19 thing was about to shut everything down. We were in a hurry and made the mistake of filing her tax returns via U.S. Mail rather than with TurboTax. She works in a hospital setting and has graduate school loans. Loans which she planned to knock down with her tax refunds. Loans she intends to pay back as she doesn’t believe they should be forgiven. She has worked directly with folks who have contracted COVID19 and probably had it herself.

She has yet to receive her 2019 tax refund. That is right. One year later her tax return is sitting in a trailer someplace with 9 million other returns that are yet to be processed. Since the “stimulus” checks are based on one’s adjusted gross income, well, she didn’t get those either. By the way, the whole point of the stimulus check was for people to receive it, and spend it. My daughter was not given the opportunity to do her civic duty.

Even though my daughter is a resident of Montana, I figured any member of congress should be interested in this problem. I contacted Representative Buck’s office. I got a form letter back that told me what a great job he was doing in Washington, D.C.. I guess he was too busy campaigning. I contacted Senator Bennet’s office. A staffer emailed me back with an offer to help but that eventually fell by the wayside. I would have contacted Senator Gardner but it was clear he was about to be voted out of office. That is a shame because he was an exception to the rule of ineffective representation. Coloradans voted out the most effective Senator since Bill Armstrong and replaced him with Hickenlooper. More on that in a minute.

Last weekend, my daughter went to Costco, bought TurboTax (who says this generation isn’t smart?) and she filed her taxes electronically. 30 minutes later she received an email from the IRS rejecting her return because her AGI doesn’t match 2019 data. Well no kidding! That return is still in a semi-trailer! This begs the question- what is she supposed to do?

So on Sunday night, my daughter emailed Representative Matt Rosendale, Rep. (MT) about this fiasco. I emailed Senator Daines, Rep. (MT). at 6:00 a.m. on Monday morning. A funny thing happened. I received a phone call from the Senator’s office at 8:20 a.m. and my daughter got a phone call directly from Representative Rosendale at 11:00 a.m. Suffice to say that Matt Rosendale is on it. In his opinion, it did not matter that she filed her taxes the old-fashioned way- this was in his words- “unacceptable”. How refreshing!

The lesson to be learned here is this: Rosendale and Daines get it. They understand what Lincoln was speaking about. Unfortunately, too many of our elected officials become a part of the system and lose

sight of what our government is supposed to be about. I hope that both gentlemen never forget why they are in Washington and who they represent. I have a hunch they won't.

A while back when Jon Hickenlooper was mayor of Denver, I requested a refund for prepaid employee parking at the Airport. I paid a year's worth of parking in advance rather than monthly just to make it convenient for both parties. When my wife stopped flying after 9/11, I asked for a refund. I still have the letter from Hickenlooper's office explaining to me their 'policies' and why in their minds they should keep my money that they did not earn. This is a classic example of someone who doesn't get what Rosendale and Daines do. To me, what the City and County of Denver did was tantamount to theft. But to many liberals, it is perfectly logical.

It is high time that we all rise up and demand that our government be responsive to the people. Support officials who get it, and get rid of the ones who don't. If we do not take corrective action, you will not like the results.

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Somewhere in Eastern Colorado.