

A Call to Unite

By Tim Cotton

There is no need to unravel the President's State of the Union address this past week, others have that well under control. However, what was apparent is that the political state of the union was revealed to the nation, not in the words of the president's speech, but in the actions of our elected representatives attending, driven home by those not in attendance. One could watch it without sounds, studying the body language and facial expressions alone.

Without question the state of the union was demonstrably shown to us to be one of a failed political system where both parties have failed us and coexist in an unhealthy relationship replete with irreconcilable differences.

The opposition party, having opposition as its only platform issue, did not even applaud, or even support the data revealing good news for working families. The party of the working class? I think not. One must wonder what is to be opposed in a plan to invest in the crumbling infrastructure. Unfortunately, like their counterparts, they are merely the party of their party, alone.

The theme was a call for unity, for bipartisanship, for collaboration. He called "upon all of us to set aside our differences, to seek out common ground, and to summon the unity we need to deliver for the people". He is even willing to compromise on immigration reform, but this requires desire to act on both sides.

Then, to pile on their partisanship and opposition the Democrats tagged the young congressman with the iconic Kennedy name to be the new spokesperson of fear and identity politics, a politics of division and partisanship. If he is to claim the family legacy I recommend he first read some of the work of his grandfather, Robert F. Kennedy.

Seriously, a white dude from one of the most privileged families in America to do the response?

Even more so, the speech is called for in the Constitution, with the purpose of the President giving a status report and his plan for the next year. That is the same Constitution that creates the position of president and congress. As representatives of that collective “we the people” who own that document we should demand more, we should demand a professional, if not official, conduct on the part of these servants, not an opportunity to campaign.

The strategic decision to not support even their own initiatives to undermine the administration and merely win elections in the mid-term is despicable. We aren't their political pawns. As Trump said, “Americans love their country. And they deserve a Government that shows them the same love and loyalty in return”

So yes, we had the clearest vision of the state of union in my lifetime. It is a shattered and divided nation whose people are forced to choose one side or the other and remain loyal to it, even to their own demise. What we saw this past week was how great the need for a rational alternative to these two parties is. We saw how important it is for a group of people to organize and come together free of party politics, laying out a plan to employ reason in developing solutions to our issues and not just strategies for the next election.

“We all share the same home, the same heart, the same destiny, and the same great American flag,” the President said. It is high time we show that we can come together as a united people when not faced with a national disaster or crisis. If not, this partisanship will be that crisis.

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