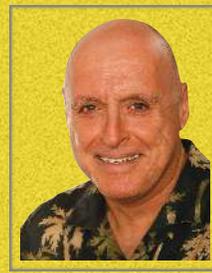


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



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If you're going to align yourself with the ideas of some of the great minds in history, this man ought to be in the mix. I'm Jerry Roberts and once again The Extra Point lowers its bucket into the well of wisdom gifted to us all by Albert Einstein. Right now. Let's get to it.

You might be saying, "Jerry, you've quoted Einstein before on this feature." Yes I have, and if you need a go-to guy to help you solve problems, Big Al is always a good choice, and we focus on just one today.

He said "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

These words should be engraved into the consciousness of every incumbent politician, especially those who have been there for many terms. It should also be top of mind for every person once elected and who lost, and who seeks office again. Beyond the ego trip of winning an election, beyond the rationalization of why some things may not have worked out in the past, at one point or another you hope they would look in the mirror and wonder, "Am I a part of the solution, or am I part of the problem?" ... "Is the way I think and do things going to bring us out of the messes we're in, or likely sink us further into them?"

How many governors perform better in their second term, compared to the first? How about those in the Guam Legislature? Those who know how to get elected and are returned to office time after time, how many eventually settle into the office and the demands of the job, and lose the fire to create change?

Einstein wasn't thinking about just politicians when he said this. It goes for business owners and top managers who've been in their position for 10 years, 20 years, maybe longer. Is that desire to create and re-create still there? Do

you still get up in the morning with the hunger to push the limits and set the pace for your company and/or industry? In most cases, if people are honest with themselves, I think the answer would be no. In this respect, private sector workers are no different than those in government. We also "settle" for the status quo.

Einstein's words also fit people who serve on a board of directors. There comes a time when you stop looking beyond the horizon and the future of the organization, and you get more or less comfortable. Your decisions become predictable. I've heard it said that no board member should ever stay beyond 10 years, that the organization would benefit from new blood in almost all cases.

Are there exceptions to this, whether it's for a politician, manager, board member, or anyone who's been doing the same thing for a long, long time? Sure there are. Some people still have that fire. They're still highly productive. Or, maybe the fire has receded a bit, but it's been replaced with wisdom. And wisdom is valuable, so long as we understand that it, too, provides a comfort zone — and when does that comfort become a liability?

In the end, only we know the truth. Others may suspect they know it, but we know it. The question is, when we do know the truth, what are we going to do about it?

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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