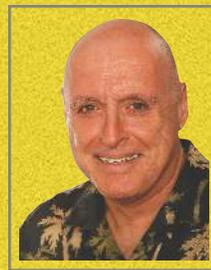


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



739 There's No Compromising on Freedom

With your permission, today I'll have some personal reflections on recent events, how we should see ourselves, and each other. I'm Jerry Roberts, and that's next, on The Extra Point.

My eyes have seen things in the past year, and in the past week, that I never suspected I would. I'm sure you can echo that point.

President Trump could have made better choices last week. While he didn't directly tell his supporters to be violent or break into the U.S. Capitol building, he should have known it was a possibility and stepped up efforts to prevent it. He didn't. Violence occurred. Regardless, rioters knew what they were doing was wrong.

During the summer of last year, incoming vice-president Kamala Harris told protesters to "keep doing what you're doing."

Unfortunately, what they were doing was rioting. She's a sitting senator, and was campaigning for the presidency. She knew violence was taking place and could continue, and she should have stepped up efforts to prevent it. She didn't. Violence did continue. Regardless, rioters knew what they were doing was wrong.

If Trump is wrong and should be censored over it, then shouldn't Harris be censored as well? It seems disingenuous to want to lynch one, and give the other one a free pass.

Politicians — whether the leader of the free world or someone trying to be that — have a responsibility to protect all Americans at all times. At all times.

Our country is a land of laws. Freedom, as guaranteed by the Constitution, is not free. Every one of us, that's you and me, is responsible to uphold it. That's the only way it works.

When the basic principles of that freedom are unequally applied to anyone, it weakens the bond that keeps everyone together as a nation.

This is why censorship of anyone — including Trump — is so dangerous. Once you do it, it's so much easier the second time. That censoring, blacklisting, and canceling of people in political retribution is happening right now. It's a slippery slope, and America's Founding Fathers knew that.

This is a wonderful country. With all of our faults, all of the bickering, with some people trying to pull every trick in the book to gain unfair advantage over others, we're still the number one destination for people who are fleeing oppression.

Think about that. People actually die trying to reach where the American flag flies. Yet, so many of us take what we have for granted.

You and I, by virtue of an accident of birth, or perhaps the signing of the Organic Act, have rights and freedoms that are the envy of billions of people who were born into lesser circumstances.

And I'm praising God today, that I'm an American, and all that means. And I'm also giving praise that the events of my life have led me to Guam not once, but twice.

Praising for my wife and family, for friendships and acquaintances that — in some cases — have spanned decades. Praising, for the acceptance of this community that I can pursue work that I feel is meaningful, and can try to influence people in the workplace, on the radio, and in the newspaper to see reasons they can also be grateful, and they should always strive to do their best.

(Con't.)

I'm grateful to live in a community where we may strongly disagree on politics, but stand in a fiesta line and make sure that our adversary gets fed. I love that about Guam and even though we can't gather that way right now, we will again one day soon.

We should always be willing to communicate, and to compromise, and to find the common ground we can share in order to build something positive.

That said, we should not and cannot compromise on freedom, basic rights, and the promises guaranteed under the Constitution. If we stand idly by and let politicians do this, we're bargaining away our future, and the future of our children and grandchildren.

Be grateful today for where you are, and for what you have. Tell others how you feel. Make sure you tell the young people in your life too, so they can begin to develop the same appreciation you have. That will be striking a huge blow for freedom. God bless you.

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

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