

Opinions

Special interest groups not served by Democrats

By Richard A. Viguerie
 1978: A San Francisco city supervisor resigned his office, then asked the mayor to reappoint him. When the mayor refused, the former supervisor strapped on his service revolver, climbed through a window in the basement of city hall, went to the mayor's office and shot him in the head. He reloaded his gun, walked down the hall to the office of his principal adversary on the board of supervisors, and killed him, too.

Supervisor Dan White was tried for the murder of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk. The jury found that White had "diminished mental capacity" because of financial and political problems and because he had eaten a lot of junk food. Some five years later, White was walking the streets as a free man.

1983: Two male high school students, ages 17 and 18, met a man at a bar in Washington, D.C. They invited him to a party but instead took him to a deserted park, where they pulled a knife on him. Then they robbed him, forced him to strip and lie on the ground, and began to kick him and urinate on him. They threatened to castrate him or kill him, and when he tried to get away, they used the knife on him -- severing four tendons in his hand.

He finally escaped, and the assailants were arrested. Last month they were sentenced: probation and 400 hours of work in a soup kitchen.

These two cases have something in common. Both the man assaulted in the park and the murdered city supervisor were homosexual. And in both cases, the courts applied standards of justice that are becoming more and more common in this country -- the standards of a liberal welfare state that considers the rights of criminals more important than the rights of victims.

Inevitably, many of the victims of crime are members of groups that are rock-solid parts of the liberal Democratic coalition that

governs America. Homosexuals are one such group. Despite their practices, which are abhorrent to the vast majority of people, homosexuals are entitled to the same protection as other citizens; their rights are trampled upon when judges throw the jail doors open.

Leaders of homosexual political organizations seem oblivious to the fact that most of the candidates they support are soft on criminals. The same is true of groups that claim to represent blacks and women.

Most black leaders seem to care little about crime, despite the fact that crime hits blacks much harder than whites. A black woman has a one-third greater chance to be a victim of violent crime than a white woman. Blacks comprise 18% of all aggravated assault victims, 23% of all robbery victims, and 42.3% of all murder victims.

Fifty-six percent of blacks are afraid to walk through their neighborhoods at night. Nearly three out of four blacks say government should spend more to fight crime (compared to less than 45% who want more spent on welfare). More than three-fourths believe that judges should be tougher on criminals.

And they should know, because black people are far more likely than whites to live in neighborhoods where the police have given up on fighting crime. They are far more likely to live in neighborhoods where they are afraid to send their kids to school because the schools are infested with violence and drugs.

You wouldn't know it from the platforms of so-called "feminist" organizations that claim to represent women, but nearly four out of five women want more money spent on law enforcement. That attitude is understandable: Women are physically more vulnerable to all sorts of violent crime. According to one study, one woman in 10 will be the victim of rape sometime during her life. Meanwhile, sleazy "adult" bookstores and movie houses run by organized crime degrade and dehumanize women.

Yet even as homosexual, black, and feminist groups plan an all-out drive to garner votes for the liberal Democratic candidate for president this fall, the Democratic Party in Congress blocks a bill that would reform sentencing procedures, changes the exclusionary rule, and otherwise makes life harder for criminals. As this is written, a bill including those provisions is bottled up in the House by Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter Rodino and Speaker "Tip" O'Neill. If the bill never comes to a vote, it will only add to the Democratic Party's image as being soft on criminals.

An exaggeration? Consider this item that appeared in the May 14 U.S. News and World Report: "Democrats think they've found a new source of voters for the fall -- prisoners. Organizers hope to register more than 300,000 inmates who retain voting rights and hope most of these will cast ballots for Democratic candidates."

One can only guess what that special interest group wants in exchange for its votes.

The Candidates' Chorus

(COME TO THE TOP OF THE ROOF OF WASHINGTON)

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Ambassador to Romania speaks at Campbell Univ. gathering

Dr. David Funderburk recently spoke at Campbell University. Dr. Funderburk is America's present Ambassador to Romania, and with his mother, the late Vesta Funderburk, and family lived in Aberdeen.

Campbell College at Buies Creek is a rising University in that area of the state. It is a Baptist institution.

In writing about Dr. Funderburk, President Reagan said: "In selecting Dr. Funderburk to represent our country abroad, I recognized not only his individual achievement but also the high quality of the institutional program at Campbell College."

Dr. Funderburk is doing an excellent job of representing our nations values in an important Eastern Bloc country, and he is increasing the prestige of your university at the same time."

We are proud to read what the President had to say about a young man we know and that people in the highest places think well of him.

People and Issues

HOSPITAL COSTS ... Most Americans know that the cost of hospitalization has risen sharply in recent years; however, too few people realize just how high it's risen. According to the May issue of *Reader's Digest*, the daily rate hospitals charge patients for needed necessities, you can't blame people for turning to government for help.

GENEROUS ... We also note that Americans are the most generous people in the world, and in 1982 individuals set a record for charitable giving, donating nearly \$54 billion to the nation's churches and charities.

MID-LIFE ... Thousands of Americans are becoming parents in mid-life. Between 1970 and 1981 the rate of first births for women aged 29-39 increased by one third.

COST SHIFTING ... Hospital cost shifting, which entails compensating for reduced Medicare

and Medicaid payments by inflating charges to private patients, is growing worse.

Health Insurance Association of America estimates that a typical private patient's hospital bill today would be 12.6 percent lower if the hospital did not engage in cost shifting.

That comes to about \$25 per patient per day, says the Association.

RUSSIA ... We read that the Soviet economic system has a population of 16 percent larger than the United States, its economy produces only about half as much as the U.S. economy. Since prices are set by the government, there are severe shortages of almost all goods including food. Food now, comprises one-third of the Soviet Union's imports from the west.

We read that the rate of economic growth has fallen sharply. During the period, 1965-82, the economy grew at a rate of about 3.8 percent a year.

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