VOICES

Starting a dialogue: what could SC do?

We have a long way to go in the living out of our “all men are created equal” national creed. To make real public policy in a nation and as a state, all Americans and all South Carolinians — conservative, moderate and liberal — must take stock.

How will we find common ground in the political world that is saturated with partisanship?

“If I could, if you could be me for just one hour, we could find a way to get inside each other’s minds if we could see through my eyes instead of your own, America, some- times you’ll be surprised to see that you’re blind.”

I know I have looked into my own heart in recent weeks and gotten very uncomfortable about my actions and perhaps about my policy: How have I been blind? What can I do?

“I can see through our heads and look the other way?”

Perhaps for a person of faith and a person who has lived my life believing in the state with refusing to look away, to understand the hardness and the terrors that are staring us in the face:

That is how many of my fel- lows, and many of you, in South Carolina are feeling. So there.

Purly political common ground is hard, so perhaps we should start with opportunities for agreement around policy. To start, I would offer seven:

1. Civil asset forfeiture. Police can take property without the owner being convicted of a crime.

2. Court fees. According to an Institute for Justice survey of state laws, South Carolina is fourth-worst in the nation for “taxation by citation,” regressive court fees that trap people financially for minor offenses.

3. Payday lending. The endless cy- cle of debt lives also in the predatory practices of some in the payday loan industry.

4. Professional licensure. Without intention, the South Carolina Health Professions, without intention, the South Carolina Education Lottery is a wealth transfer from students to those licensed physicians. More needed aid is needed in the

5. Barriers to work. Small businesses- men often can’t hire willing workers for simple tasks because of overly bur- densome licensing requirements because government.

A student’s destiny shouldn’t be deter- mined by district lines. Parental choice should be able to choose any public school that meets their needs.

6. Energy inequality. South Carolina is one of only a few places where the nation. We know who that hurts most.

7. School choice. In 2016, the South Carolina Senate killed a bill that would have allowed parents to pay tuition for students in private schools with their own money.

Cal Thomas

Traditional Funeral are supposed to serve at least two purposes: honor the deceased, comfort those who mourn his passing and preach a message about eternity and the hope of life.

Tradition was discarded during John Lewis funeral last week in Atlanta. Like the memorial service of the late Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.) in 2002, the Lewis service was a political event that included verbal denunciations of Presi- dent Donald Trump. There were allega- tions of voter suppression by Republi- cans and a comparison of Trump by for- mer President Barack Obama to George Wallace, the late Alabama governor and segregationist.

On that last point, it was Wallace who stood in the doorway of a little school in an effort to stop African Americans from entering the University of Ala- bama. Today’s Democrats have it re- versed. They are blocking pore kids from escaping failed public schools, bowing to the desires of teachers’ unions that support and control campaign money to Democratic politi- cians.

Obama also criticized President Trump for sending federal agents to Portland, Oregon, to haul quill violence that had gone on for more than 60 days.

Possum. Presumably, President Obama would not have been opposed to Presi- dent Eisenhower’s decision in 1957 to send the 101st Airborne Division to Lit- tle Rock, Arkansas, to protect black students entering Central High School.

Representatives are toing the party line, no matter how far off-track it goes, harming the very checks and balances put in place to ensure that our democ- racy does not fall. George Washington’s warning 224 years ago should be a re- sounding clarion.

We are in a very sad future of politics in our country today, because politics is a game and that game plays a role in conspiracy theories that cause people to turn, and even threat- en, the health experts who are advising us. Politicians play a role in how govern- nors choose to heed the experts’ advice when it comes to shutting down and re- opening their states.

Politics is not solving the day-to- day needs of American citizens. Polit- ics is actively impeding. Politics is trying to subvert the power of the peo- ple.

Is politics a sickness killing America?

We want to hear from you

Letters to the editor are subject to editing for length and clarity. They should be fewer than 250 words. Please include your name, reversed out- line, email and telephone number. All letters are subject to editing for length and clarity. They should be fewer than 250 words. We want to hear from you.

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Former President Barack Obama speaks at the funeral for the late Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., on Aug. 28.

Politics has divided family and friends, securing the day-to-day needs of American citizens. Polit- ics is actively impeding. Politics is trying to subvert the power of the peo- ple.

I’m sick of politics. Politics is killing America. —Stephanie Ball

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Stephanie Ball

SOUTH CAROLINA

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