



Pumping Up Liberalism

BY BILL O'REILLY
Creators Syndicate

So now the president is a committed man of the left. No longer is he faking moderation or even trying to bring the nation “together.” Nope. As he made clear in his inauguration speech, Barack Obama is dedicating himself to achieving “social justice” no matter what the cost.

And the cost is high. The annual federal deficit is more than \$1 trillion, with the national debt approaching \$17 trillion. Just last week, the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office warned once again that federal spending is “unsustainable.” That means if government spending is not curtailed and quickly, the U.S. dollar could collapse.

But you would not know that by listening to the president’s address. He was decidedly upbeat when telling the nation that more needs to be done (code for spending) to ensure “equality.”

That’s the big leftwing word these days: “equality.” But can we be real here for a moment? Does anyone, even those of you living in San Francisco, believe that an American who earns a Ph.D. in economics is going to be equal to the high school dropout in the marketplace? Anyone? Bueller?

So let’s do the equality business at least in the capitalist arena. The strong and smart prosper; the weak and lazy fail.

But not in Obama world. Not there. The president sees his mandate as “providing” for those who can’t cut it. He is the biggest spender of all the presidents in the nation’s history by far.

Obama is proud of his belief that government knows best. When he told the world that individuals are not



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totally responsible for their personal success, that government has a major role in it, many Americans were taken aback. But Obama sincerely believes that.

Let me prove him wrong with a vivid comparison. In 1979, a man named Rupert Murdoch started a company that today employs 48,000 workers worldwide. The employees of News Corporation, of which I am one, pay taxes and support families. The company gives us an opportunity to succeed on our own without any financial assistance from the government. In turn, we provide assets to the government. We don’t take from it.

Some of our tax dollars go to pay the salaries and benefits of government workers. Since he was elected, Obama has increased the federal payroll by more than 130,000. Most of those folks work hard, but again, they are paid by private sector workers.

So which scenario is better for America? The private sector situation, or the expanding government workforce?

If you don’t know the answer to that question, you don’t want to know.

Obama is a utopian at heart. He wants to improve the lives of the downtrodden, which is a good thing. But he doesn’t understand that damaging the free marketplace in pursuit of “social justice” will eventually harm those he wants to help.

The nation’s crushing debt is a tsunami brewing offshore. Let’s hope Obama wises up before we all get swept away.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama."

The Sirens Of The Pentagon

BY KATHLEEN PARKER
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WASHINGTON — It must be true what they say about women — that they are smarter, stronger, wiser and wilier than your average Joe.

How else could one explain the magical thinking that apparently has prompted Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to abandon all reason and lift the ban on women in direct combat?

Methinks the boys have been outmaneuvered.

This is a terrible idea for reasons too numerous to list in this space, which forces me to recommend my 2008 book, “Save the Males,” in which I devote a chapter to the issue. The most salient point happens to be a feminist argument: Women, because of their inferior physical capacities and greater vulnerabilities upon capture, have a diminished opportunity for survival.

More on this, but first let’s be clear. Arguments against women in direct combat have nothing to do with courage, skill, patriotism or dedication. Most women are equal to most men in all these categories, and are superior to men in many other areas, as our educational graduation rates at every level indicate. Women also tend to excel as sharpshooters and pilots.

But ground combat is one area in which women, through quirks of biology and human nature, are not equal to men — a difference that should be celebrated rather than rationalized as incorrect.

Remember, we’re not talking about female officers of a certain age pacing the hallways of the Pentagon when we speak of placing women in combat, though perhaps we should be. My favorite bumper sticker remains: “I’m out of estrogen and I have a gun.”

We’re potentially talking about 18-year-old girls, notwithstanding their “adult” designation under the law. (Parents know better.) At least 18-year-old males have the advantage of being gassed up on testosterone, the hormone that fuels not just sexual libido but, more to the point, aggression. To those suffering a sudden onset of the vapors, ignore hormones at your peril.

Now, hold the image of your 18-year-old daughter, neighbor, sister or girlfriend as you follow these facts, which somehow have been ignored in the advancement of a fallacy. The fallacy is that because men and women are equal under the law, they are equal in all endeavors and should have all access to the same opportunities. This is true except when the opportunity



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requires certain characteristics. Fact: Females have only half the upper-body strength as males — no small point in the field.

Further to the fallacy is the operating assumption that military service is just another job. The rules of civil society do not apply to the military, which is a top-down organization in which the rules are created to maximize efficiency in killing enemies. It is not just another job that can be managed with the human resources department’s Manual on Diversity and Sensitivity.

The argument that women’s performance on de facto front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan has proved concerns about combat roles unwarranted is false logic. Just because women in forward support companies can return fire when necessary — or die — doesn’t necessarily mean they are equal to men in combat.

Unbeknownst perhaps to many civilians, combat has a very specific meaning in the military. It has nothing to do with stepping on an IED or suffering the consequences of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. It means AGGRESSIVELY ENGAGING AND ATTACKING the enemy with deliberate offensive action, with a high probability of face-to-face contact.

If the enemy is all around you — and you need every available person — that is one set of circumstances. To ask women to engage vicious men and risk capture under any other is beyond understanding. This is not a movie or a game. Every objective study has argued against women in direct combat for reasons that haven’t changed.

The threat to unit cohesion should require no elaboration. But let’s leave that obvious point to pedants and cross into enemy territory where somebody’s 18-year-old daughter has been captured. No one wants to imagine a son in these circumstances either, obviously, but women face special tortures. And, no, the rape of men has never held comparable appeal.

We can train our men to ignore the screams of their female comrades, but is this the society we want to create? And though some female veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars have endured remarkable suffering, their ability to withstand or survive violent circumstances is no rational argument for putting American girls and women in the hands of enemy men.

It will kill us in the end.

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Progress Is Made In Food Safety

OMAHA WORLD-HERALD (Jan. 22): New, more stringent food safety rules ordered by Congress in 2010 are a step closer to reality. But it still will be at least three years before they can begin to affect the number of outbreaks, illnesses and deaths from salmonella and other food-borne pathogens.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 3,000 Americans or more die from these diseases each year, while about 1-in-6 Americans (48 million) gets sick and 128,000 are hospitalized. The Food and Drug Administration indicated the new rules could prevent almost 2 million illnesses annually.

Congress gave the FDA authority to require U.S. food producers and manufacturers to draw up detailed plans to ensure the safety of their products, giving large producers three years to comply and smaller facilities and growers even longer. Lawmakers ordered the FDA to inspect production facilities more frequently. Many plants today are not checked for years at a time.

The FDA also will more closely oversee imported foods, which account for about 15 percent of the nation’s food supply by value. Imports totaled \$76 billion through the first 10 months of 2012.

Perhaps the biggest new club given to the FDA in the legislation is the ability to order recalls of food itself rather than asking for industry cooperation. Over the years, the FDA’s weakness on this point has delayed recall action a number of times.

A major problem: Congress did not fund the legislation, and it would require an appropriation of some \$1.4 billion over the next five years.

The new regulations were tailored to fit the fruits and vegetables most open to contamination, such as berries, melons, leafy greens and other foods usually eaten raw. The rules are being welcomed by many food growers and companies. Indeed, many producers are already following the protective steps laid out by the FDA. ConAgra Foods of Omaha, for instance, has said it supports strict food safety standards and that its current practices go beyond the proposed requirements.

The changes would be good for business, says Ami Gadhia of Consumers Union, because they’ll “provide a measure of security and certainty that there’s a system in place and bad actors will be weeded out. It’s going to save business costly recalls.”

The regulations, supposed to be ready in late 2011, were held back by the Obama administration until after the 2012 election. Now that the FDA has proposed them, they will go through a public comment period and then further review before being issued, which could take a year. That means it will likely be three years or more before Americans see much effect on the number of food-related outbreaks of illness.

That’s not ideal, considering the number of hospitalizations and deaths, but it is definitely progress.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 28, the 28th day of 2013. There are 337 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History: On Jan. 28, 1813, the novel “Pride and Prejudice” by Jane Austen was first published anonymously in London.

On this date: In 1547, England’s King Henry VIII died; he was succeeded by his 9-year-old son, Edward VI.

In 1853, Cuban revolutionary Jose Marti was born in Havana.

In 1909, the United States withdrew its forces from Cuba as Jose Miguel Gomez became president.

In 1915, the United States Coast Guard was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill merging the Life-Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service.

In 1916, Louis D. Brandeis was nominated by President Woodrow Wilson to the Supreme Court; Brandeis became the court’s first Jewish member.

In 1945, during World War II, Allied supplies began reaching China over the newly reopened Burma Road.

In 1962, the last of Washington, D.C.’s streetcars made its final run.

In 1973, a cease-fire officially went into effect in the Vietnam War.

In 1980, six U.S. diplomats who had avoided being taken hostage at their embassy in Tehran flew out of Iran with the help of Canadian diplomats.

In 1982, Italian anti-terrorism forces rescued U.S. Brigadier General James L. Dozier, 42 days after he had been kidnapped by the Red Brigades.

In 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff from Cape Canaveral, killing all seven crew members, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

In 1988, a 13-day standoff in Marion, Utah, between police and a polygamist clan ended in gunfire that killed a state corrections officer and seriously wounded the group’s leader, Addam Swapp.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, girding the nation for war, said in his State of the Union address that Saddam Hussein had shown “utter contempt” for the world community and had to be held to account; Bush also pledged to help the ailing economy with lower taxes and a stronger health care system. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s Likud party and other hawkish parties won a resounding victory in Israel’s parliamentary elections. John Philip (correct) Thompson Sr., who expanded his family’s business into the nationwide 7-

Eleven chain, died at age 77.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush, in his last State of the Union address, urged passage of an economic stimulus package and asked Americans to remain patient with the long, grinding war in Iraq. In a daring ambush, Iraqi insurgents blasted a U.S. patrol with a roadside bomb and showered survivors with gunfire from a mosque in Mosul; five American soldiers were killed in the explosion. A U.S. missile attack in Pakistan killed veteran al-Qaida leader Abu Lath al-Libi. Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy endorsed Barack Obama for the White House.

One year ago: The Arab League halted its observer mission in Syria because of escalating violence. Victoria Azarenka routed three-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova 6-3, 6-0 to win the Australian Open. Ashley Wagner won her first U.S. Figure Skating title at the championship in San Jose, Calif.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor-dancer John Ronald Dennis is 88. Musician-composer Acker Bilk is 84. Actor Nicholas Pryor is 78. Actor Alan Alda is 77. Actress Susan Howard is 71. Actress Marthe Keller is 68. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., is 66. Actress-singer Barbi Benton is 63. Evangelical pastor Rick Warren is 59. Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy is 58. Actress Harley Jane Kozak is 56. Movie director Frank Darabont is 54. Rock musician Dave Sharp is 54. Rock singer Sam Phillips is 51. Rock musician Dan Spitz is 50. Country musician Greg Cook (Ricochet) is 48. Gospel singer Marvin Sapp is 46. Singer Sargent MacLachlan is 45. Rapper Rakim is 45. DJ Muggs (Cypress Hill) is 45. Actress Kathryn Morris (“Cold Case”) is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Anthony Hamilton is 42. Rock musician Brandon Bush is 40. MLB player Jermaine Dye is 39. Singer Joey Fatone Jr. (’N Sync) is 36. Rapper Rick Ross is 36. Actress Rosamund Pike is 34. Singer Nick Carter (Backstreet Boys) is 33. Actor Elijah Wood is 32. Rapper J. Cole is 28. Actress Alexandra Krosney is 25. Actress Ariel Winter (TV: “Modern Family”) is 15.

Thought for Today: “Vanity and pride are different things, though the words are often used synonymously. A person may be proud without being vain. Pride relates more to our opinion of ourselves, vanity to what we would have others think of us.” — From “Pride and Prejudice” by Jane Austen (1775-1817).

FROM THE BIBLE

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth. Philippians 2:10. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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