



A Look At Family Values

BY ROBERT B. REICH
Tribune Media Services

My mother went into paid work soon after my father's clothing store was flooded out in a hurricane, almost wiping him out. She had no choice. We needed the money.

This was some two decades before a tidal wave of wives and mothers went into paid work.

For the relatively few women with four-year college degrees, this change was the consequence of wider educational opportunity and new laws against gender discrimination that opened professions to well-educated women.

But the vast majority of women entered the paid workforce because male wages were dropping. Globalization and automation were pushing men out of well-paid factory jobs. Unions were crumbling. Wives and mothers had to get paid jobs in order to prop up family incomes.

The change was dramatic. In 1966, only 20 percent of mothers with children worked outside the home. By the late 1990s, it was 60 percent.

For married women with children under age 6, the transformation was even more dramatic: from 12 percent in the 1960s to 55 percent by the late 1990s.

It was one of the largest transformations of the American family in history. Yet America still hasn't accommodated this shift.

I was proud to have implemented the Family and Medical Leave Act when I was labor secretary. But unlike most rich nations, America doesn't require that employers offer paid leave. As a result, women and many families can't afford to leave work for a newborn baby or a medical emergency.

Nor does America require equal pay for equal work. Women's pay still lags behind male pay for the same job. This is true even for college graduates.

Nor, like most rich nations, do we provide universal child care. Instead, families are offered a patchwork of small subsidies, tax deductions, and tax credits that fail to meet most families' needs. And even the modest child-care subsidies have fallen under the budget axe.

More women workers are in minimum-wage jobs than



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men, yet the minimum wage hasn't kept up. If it had stayed even with inflation since 1968 it would be over \$10 today.

We've even cut aid for prenatal and postnatal medical care for poor infants and mothers.

And we have put a five-year limit on aid to single women with children — a limit that the ongoing effects of the Great Recession have already proven onerous.

Nor, finally, have we begun to cope with the reality of stagnant or declining real wages that has caused families to work so much harder and longer in the first place.

Globalization and automation continue to erode the wages of most Americans. The typical male worker today is earning less, adjusted for inflation, than he did three decades ago.

Most of the new jobs created since the recession bottomed out in 2009 pay less than the jobs lost in the recession. The fastest-growing jobs are in retail shops, restaurants, hospitals and hotels — whose pay and benefits are low.

But this doesn't have to be the case. Other rich nations such as Germany have invested heavily in technical education and job training, so their workers use new technologies to become more globally competitive.

Here, though, we've slowed investments in our people — making it harder for young people to get the skills they need. Public higher education has become unaffordable to many.

In America, almost all of the economic gains since the late 1970s have gone to the top 1 percent.

Too many of our representatives in Washington refuse to acknowledge any of this, or take the necessary steps to reverse the trend.

They profess to believe in "family values." But their indifference and inaction in the face of what has happened to working families poses a clear and present danger to the American family.

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The Gosnell Jury Saw The Truth

BY CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
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And so, what Jack McMahon audaciously called a racist prosecution, wherein a black man was being called to account for ending the lives of countless nameless black babies, has ended in a righteous verdict: guilty, guilty, and again, guilty.

Three lives vindicated with three words, uttered after months of testimony and evidence that makes you want to turn your face away. But we looked, and we understood that here was madness and evil, not racism.

Kermit Gosnell could now face the death penalty, something that has far-reaching repercussions not only for the immediate victims and their families but — and don't let them tell you otherwise — also for the abortion industry.

For years, ever since the carnage in West Philly was uncovered, Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers have attempted to distance themselves from this gruesome scenario.

Until now, "murder" was never officially affixed to the deliberate destruction of life in utero. It was always "termination," "D & X," or in the words of late-term abortionist LeRoy Carhart, surreptitiously captured in a Live Action sting, "meat in a slow cooker."

Now, a Philadelphia jury has restored the true definition of the criminal act.

The Founders chose the right city in which to birth a nation.

Now is not the time to talk about punishment. Now is the time to thank the men and women who deliberated longer than anyone expected them to and made every effort to separate the spin from the media (on both sides) and the desires of the advocates (on both sides) from the legal truths.

This jury wasn't afraid to say that allowing a child to die after a botched abortion attempt was infanticide. They understood, as so many have not, that plunging scissors into the skull of a child or snipping her spinal cord to stop the plaintive cries of the newly arrived is a

crime against humanity.

Gosnell's defense was based on technicalities and pieced together from the legacy of Roe, one that helped us to ignore the humanity of the unborn creature. Jack McMahon is a brilliant adversary for any prosecutor, and knows how to use just the right balance of law and leg- erdmain to assist his clients. As a fellow attorney, I admire him immensely.

But as a woman who believes with every fiber of her being that what is created in the womb is undeniably human and therefore inviolate, I rejoice that his professional expertise failed to sway the jury.

This is not a case of nuance. It is clear that both pro-life and pro-choice camps were able to find common ground against this man who used the Hippocratic oath like toilet paper. But that common ground is deceptive, because it is as solid as shifting quicksand.

The moment we start talking about how abortion needs to remain safe and legal and that Gosnell is not the face of the movement, we allow ourselves to fall back into that comfort zone of denial.

Gosnell is the face of the movement, or at least the face of what it can become when we look away.

When Harry Blackmun divided life into tidy trimesters and placed relatively little value on the first two, we took that first step into the moral abyss.

Gosnell is just the natural evolution of what started in 1973.

While I have no illusion that what this jury has done will stop the moral devolution, I am glad that at least we are taking a long look at where we are headed. If the message conveyed by this jury does anything, it holds a mirror up to a society that, for so long, has closed its eyes.

And if the fleeting glimpse in the glass makes us shudder, as it made that jury shudder, there is perhaps a blessing in the sacrifice of those young lives.

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OPINION | OUR VIEW

IRS Blunder: What Happens Next?

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is alternately the most feared and loathed agency in the U.S. government.

And that was true even before word broke late last week that the agency deliberately scrutinized conservative groups that applied for tax-exempt status.

Now, the IRS is under immense fire, and deservedly so, for a mess of its own making. The agency compounded things dramatically by not disclosing the mistake when it had the opportunities to do so.

This event means it's once again investigation and hearing season in Washington. The Justice Department announced Tuesday it will be delving into the matter. How high up the governmental chain this may or may not go remains to be seen. The scandal will also unleash torrents of obligatory political grandstanding by lawmakers who know an easy target when they see it. Not many of them are going to score points with their constituents by defending the IRS, that's for sure.

But, just for the sake of argument, let's try — at least partially — to do just that.

According to various accounts from sources like The Associated Press, Reuters and the *New York Times*, this problem stems, in large part, back to the U.S. Supreme Court's unfortunate Citizens United decision in early 2010, which relaxed rules on political spending and, thus, opened up our election process to the massive gravity of anonymous "dark money" from corporate donors — money that now conveniently falls outside of the reach of the Federal Election Commission. In the wake of this decision, the IRS was besieged with requests from groups filing for a tax-exempt status labeled in the tax codes as 501(c)(4), which applies to non-profit groups whose mission is to promote "social welfare." This was at the time when the Tea Party was nearing the height of its momentum, and many such groups of that ideological alignment were requesting 501(c)(4) exemptions. The number of applications for the exemption more than doubled between 2010 and 2012, overwhelming IRS staff.

However, the 501(c)(4) tax status excludes political activity as an organization's primary purpose, although there is some vague wording attached to that mission, which explains why these groups spent more than \$300 million in the 2012 election cycle anyway. Thus, IRS officials at the Cincinnati office, which was in charge of determining tax-exempt qualifications, began scrutinizing applications that included words like "Tea Party" and "patriot" in their submissions.

It wound up being a clumsy, dangerous way of red-flagging possible political groups seeking tax-exempt status. It reflected "the inability of the IRS to really enforce what are really political election campaign regulations," Ofer Lion, a lawyer who specializes in working with tax-exempt organizations, told The Huffington Post. "These are career civil servants down in the IRS basement somewhere without adult supervision trying to deal with problems they don't know how to deal with."

(By the way, conservative-leaning groups aren't the only ones who have felt the IRS sting in recent years. Salon.com noted that, during the George W. Bush administration, the IRS went after both the NAACP and Greenpeace.)

But here, the defense efforts stop. This effort had the effect of singling out conservative groups, which is utterly unacceptable. Also, some IRS senior officials did not acknowledge these activities to Congress, which represented damning omissions on their part.

The IRS erred, badly. While an official with the independent agency did apologize last week for its "absolutely inappropriate" behavior, such contrition does little to scrub the taint of their actions, which were, as President Obama stated Monday, "outrageous."

But one fallout of this incident can also have unfortunate ramifications.

While targeting groups for scrutiny because of their political affiliation is disturbing enough, one must also be concerned about what this episode will do to the IRS's work of regulating political spending in the realm where otherwise-ungoverned 501(c)(4) groups reside. That work is needed more than ever, but the effort may be crippled by this scandal, leaving us with a potential landscape of unregulated, anonymous, nebulous political spending.

That's what makes this IRS scandal even more damaging. It has not only betrayed the faith of the people, it has also undercut the organization's watchdog mission. However profusely the IRS apologizes for its own stupidity, the damage has been done.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 15, the 135th day of 2013. There are 230 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 15, 1863, Edouard Manet's painting "Le déjeuner sur l'herbe" (The Lunch on the Grass) went on display in Paris, scandalizing viewers with its depiction of a nude woman seated on the ground with two fully dressed men at a picnic in a wooded area.

On this date: In 1602, English navigator Bartholomew Gosnold and his ship, the Concord, arrived at present-day Cape Cod, which he's credited with naming.

In 1776, Virginia endorsed American independence from Britain.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed an act establishing the Department of Agriculture. Austrian author and playwright Arthur Schnitzler was born in Vienna.

In 1911, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Standard Oil Co. was a monopoly in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, and ordered its breakup.

In 1930, registered nurse Ellen Church, the first airline stewardess, went on duty aboard an Oakland-to-Chicago flight operated by Boeing Air Transport (a forerunner of United Airlines).

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure creating the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, whose members came to be known as WACs. Wartime gasoline rationing went into effect in 17 Eastern states, limiting sales to three gallons a week for non-essential vehicles.

In 1963, astronaut L. Gordon Cooper blasted off aboard Faith 7 on the final mission of the Project Mercury space program. Weight Watchers was incorporated in New York.

In 1970, just after midnight, Phillip Lafayette Gibbs and James Earl Green, two black students at Jackson State College in Mississippi, were killed as police opened fire during student protests.

In 1972, Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace was shot and left paralyzed by Arthur H. Bremer while campaigning in Laurel, Md., for the Democratic presidential nomination. (Bremer served 35 years of a 53-year sentence for attempted murder.)

In 1975, U.S. forces invaded the Cambodian island of Koh Tang and recaptured the American merchant ship Mayaguez. (All 40 crew members had already been released safely by Cambodia; some 40 U.S. servicemen were killed in the operation.)

In 1988, the Soviet Union began the process of withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan, more than eight years after Soviet forces had entered the country.

In 1991, Edith Cresson was appointed by French President Francois Mitterrand to be France's first female prime minister.

Ten years ago: Emergency officials

rushed to a series of mock catastrophes in the Chicago area on the busiest day of a national weeklong exercise. Runaway Texas Democrats boarded two buses and headed home after a self-imposed exile in Oklahoma that succeeded in killing a redistricting bill they opposed. The three-year championship reign of the Los Angeles Lakers came to a decisive end as the San Antonio Spurs overpowered the Lakers 110-82 to win the Western Conference semifinal series 4 games to 2. Country music star June Carter Cash died in Nashville, Tenn., at age 73.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush, addressing the Israeli Knesset, gently urged Mideast leaders to "make the hard choices necessary for peace" and condemned what he called "the false comfort of appeasement." California's Supreme Court declared same-sex couples in the state could marry — a victory for the gay rights movement that was overturned the following November by the passage of Proposition 8, now the focus of a legal battle. Emmy-winning composer Alexander "Sandy" Courage, who created the otherworldly theme for the original "Star Trek" TV series, died in Los Angeles at age 88.

One year ago: Francois Hollande became president of France after a ceremony at the Elysee Palace in central Paris — the country's first Socialist leader since Francois Mitterrand left office in 1995. In Bogota, Colombia, a midday bombing killed two bodyguards of an archconservative former interior minister, Fernando Londono, who was injured. Cleveland Cavaliers guard Kyrie Irving was named the NBA's Rookie of the Year.

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Sir Peter Shaffer is 87. Actress-singer Anna Maria Albergheiti is 77. Counterculture icon Wavy Gravy is 77. Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is 76. Singer Trini Lopez is 76. Singer Lenny Welch is 75. Actress-singer Lainie Kazan is 73. Actress Gunilla Hutton is 71. Country singer K.T. Oslin is 71. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius is 65. Singer-songwriter Brian Eno is 65. Actor Nicholas Hammond ("The Sound of Music") is 63. Actor Chazz Palminteri is 61. Baseball Hall-of-Famer George Brett is 60. Musician-composer Mike Oldfield is 60. Actor Lee Horsley is 58. TV personality Giselle Fernandez is 52. Football Hall-of-Famer Emmitt Smith is 44. Singer-rapper Prince Be (PM Dawn) is 43. Actor Brad Rowe is 43. Actor David Charvet is 41. Actor Russell Hornsby is 39. Rock musician Ahmet Zappa is 39. Olympic gold-medal gymnast Amy Chow is 35. Actor David Krumholz is 35. Actress Jamie-Lynn Sigler is 32. Rock musician Brad Shultz (Cage the Elephant) is 31. Rock musician Nick Perri is 29.

Thought for Today: "Vice is most dangerous when it puts on the garb of virtue." — Danish proverb.

FROM THE BIBLE

I am the good shepherd. John 10:11. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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