

TABOO OPINIONS #55

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6-21-05 MOB RULE

When I was a kid in the 1930's learning stupid things in Kenton grammar school here in Portland, Oregon, some of those stupid things turned out to be valuable.

[But first, a time-binding note: Kenton is due to be 'decommissioned' and torn down for lack of enough new students (we are told), but I believe that school and its large playground located at the intersection of now very important streets which carry a new electric train public transport line and which houses a monster new retail complex is being closed so that the now-worth-multi-million\$ property can be sold and developed for commercial uses. The school district desperately needs the money.]

I remember learning that democracy was a very bad system of government because it amounted to mob rule: the majority of citizens could do anything it wanted to the minority or minorities.

The best form of government, then, was considered to be a republic. Qualified voters voted for individuals to represent them in a central government which had checks and balances to prevent mob rule. Back in the 1930's the 48 states of the union had far more power and rights than they do now in our federal empire. We had a Constitution which was obeyed. Now we pay lip service to the Constitution.

Okay. Now in 2005 the most politically incorrect word in the English Language is--- REPUBLIC. No politician of either major party will use the word. The major news media will not use the word. REPUBLIC has been banished from public discourse.

Even Republicans avoid their name's heritage.

Everything is now 'democracy'. From today's The Oregonian I read that our Secretary of State, visiting Egypt, challenged a hall full of VIP Egyptians to "embrace democracy" and said that the United

States had pursued stability at the expense of democracy in the middle east, and added we are now “supporting the democratic aspirations of all people.”

And President Bush yesterday said “...there is a need for the world to work together so that Iraq’s democracy will succeed.”

“Republic’ would have been more accurate. But it’s safe to say that in public the word ‘republic’ has never passed Bush’s lips...and never will.

And I wouldn’t be surprised if newspaper and TV/cable news organizations’ style books dictate that ‘democracy’ is the preferred political usage, implying (but not saying outright) that ‘republic’ be avoided. Reporters, commentators and print/cable-time analysts automatically pick up on the “rule” or they do not last.

How else to explain the disappearance of ‘republic’?

Think about it. Look for it as you read your newspapers and watch TV/cable news. All you’ll see or hear is ‘democracy’.

REPUBLIC has been dumped down the memory hole and only old contrarian fuckers like me remember it.

END TABOO OPINIONS #55