

KINS COMMUNITY COMMENT (442-5744)

This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.

In those quiet times when one reflects about the things that have happened in the past, some strange personal remembrances popup. For some unknown reason, I recently recalled a memory from my first or second grade years. In an art class, I was adding stick figures and extra lines to a picture of a circus tent in a coloring book. I remember that the teacher had given specific instructions to color only the tent and to make sure that students did not color outside the lines. No exceptions or additions! I remember the teacher coming over to me and scolding me because I was coloring outside of the lines and drawing where coloring was not allowed. Why I remembered this piece of ancient elementary school history, I do not know, but I can still hear the teacher's words echoing in my ears. "Color only inside the lines! Follow the instructions and "don't color outside the lines."

Perhaps this memory was triggered by the political circus currently driving the news cycle. As I watch the news, I sit back and watch who is auditioning for the center ring and I see a great deal of attention given to the candidates who are coloring outside the lines of the approved political campaign norms. For years I have followed the established processes of watching candidates at all political levels collect endorsements, campaign contributions, and build campaign organizations. As the elections unfold and the circus plays out, the special interests collect their dividends after the election. There has always been an approved method of building a political campaign. As the approved political process plays out, the election ends in a flurry of advertisements, verbal assaults, dirty tricks, and political promises that can be ignored after the election. It is almost an unwritten law that the approved bureaucracy must be protected at all costs regardless of the political party pulling the strings. Candidates can do anything they want as long as they color inside the lines to protect political special interests.

In many ways, the run-up to the 2016 National election has been different. The institutional special interests are facing unconventional campaigns based on the overwhelming public frustration. Candidate popularity is being fueled by the frustration based on ineffectiveness in government.

To quote Teddy Roosevelt, "The Roman Republic fell, not because of the ambition of Caesar or Augustus, but because it had already long ceased to be in any real sense a republic at all. When the sturdy Roman plebeian, who lived by his own labor, who voted without reward according to his own convictions, and who with his fellows formed in war the terrible Roman legion, had been changed into an idle creature who craved nothing in life save the gratification of a thirst for rapid excitement, who was fed by the state, and who directly or indirectly sold his vote to the highest bidder, then the end of the republic was at hand, and nothing could save it. The laws were the same as they had been, but the people behind the laws had changed, and so the laws counted for nothing."

I like all the people who are currently coloring outside the established pre-ordained political lines. Perhaps some of them can help us step away from political correctness, and escape the progressive purgatory our government has created.

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