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To rebel is right, to disobey is a duty, to act is necessary !

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As of today, after 25 years, I am no longer a Republican

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By James Chaney

As of today, after 25 years, I am no longer a Republican.

I take this step with deep regret, and with a deep sense of betrayal.

I still believe in the vast power of markets to inspire ideas, motivate solutions and eliminate waste. I still believe in international vigilance and a strong defense, because this world will always be home to people who will avidly seek to take or destroy what we have built as a nation. I still believe in the protection of individuals and businesses from the influence and expense of an over-involved government. I still believe in the hand-in-hand concepts of separation of church and state and absolute freedom to worship, in the rights of the states to govern themselves without undo federal interference, and in the host of other things that defined me as a Republican.

My problem is this: I believe in principles and ideals which my party has systematically discarded in the last 10 years.

My Republican Party was the party of Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, Barry Goldwater, and George H.W. Bush. It was a party of honesty and accountability. It was a party of tolerance, and practicality and honor. It was a party that faced facts and dealt with reality, and that crafted common-sense solutions to problems based on the facts as they were, not as we wished them to be, or even worse, as we made them up. It was a party that told the truth, even when the truth came hard. And now, it is none of those things.

Fifty years from now, the Republican Party of this era will be judged by how we provided for the nation's future on three core issues: how we led the world on the environment, how we minded the business of running our country in such a way that we didn't go bankrupt, and whether we gracefully accepted our place on the world's stage as its only superpower. Sadly, we have built the foundation for dismal failure on all three counts. And we've done it in such a way that we shouldn't be surprised if neither the American people nor the world ever trusts us again.

My party has repeatedly ignored, discarded and even invented science to suit its needs, most spectacularly as to global warming. We have an opportunity and the responsibility to lead the world on this issue, but instead we've chosen greed, shortsightedness and deliberate ignorance.

We have mortgaged the country's fiscal future in a way that no Democratic Congress or administration ever did, and to justify the tax cuts that brought us here, we've simply changed the rules. I matured as a Republican believing that uncontrolled deficit spending is harmful and irresponsible; I still do. But the party has yet to explain to me why it's a good thing now, other than to say "... because we say so."

Our greatest failure, though, has been in our role as superpower. This world needs justice, democracy and compassion, and as the keystone of those things, it needs one thing above all else: truth.

Republican decisions made in 2002 and 2003 have killed almost 2,000 of the most capable patriots our country has to offer – volunteers, every one. Support for those decisions was gathered through what appeared at the time to be spin and marketing, but which now turns out to have been deliberate planning and falsehood. The Blair government's internal documentation only confirms what has been suspected for years: Americans are dying every day for Republican lies first crafted in 2002,

expanded and embellished upon in 2003, and which continue to this day. This calculated deception is now burned into the legacy of the party, every bit as much as Reagan's triumph in the Cold War, or Nixon's disgrace over Watergate.

I could go on and on – about how we have compromised our international integrity by sanctioning torture, about how we are systematically dismantling the civil liberties that it took us two centuries to define and preserve, and about how we have substituted bullying, brinksmanship and "staying on message" for real political discourse – but those three issues are enough.

We're poisoning our planet through gluttony and ignorance.

We're teetering on the brink of self-inflicted insolvency.

We're selfishly and needlessly sacrificing the best of a generation.

And we're lying about it.

While it has compiled this record of failure and deception, the party which I'm leaving today has spent its time, energy and political capital trying to save Terri Schiavo, battling the threat of single-sex unions, fighting medical marijuana and physician-assisted suicide, manufacturing political crises over presidential nominees, and selling privatized Social Security to an America that isn't buying. We fiddle while Rome burns.

Enough is enough. I quit.

James Chaney is a Eugene attorney who has been in private practice for more than 20 years, and who has been a registered Republican since 1980.

<http://www.registerguard.com/news/2...> ↗

Forum posts

27 June 2005, 09:10

Congratulations. I agree competitions turns the positive out of human beings. Markets no longer exists! Everything is somehow regulated by financial institutions, also the claim that is a free market economy. Ridiculous! Get a piece of land! Times coming up will be real hard for believers.

5 July 2005, 20:56

Thanks to James Chaney for being so public with his observations and his dissatisfaction with the Republican Party. I hope that he will find common cause with the Democrats in his community to see how we can work together for the common good.

28 June 2005, 00:09

James Chaney, you are a wimp, a loser and Un-American. Further you are no longer a White.

America does not need people like you; why don't you buy a one way ticket to France.

2 July 2005, 23:21

There is nothing un-American about what Mr. Chaney wrote. Everything he said is true. Sadly, you are probably one of the many in this country who has no idea what is going on, or perhaps you do and simply just turn your head the other way. Its closed-minded idiots like you that cause the rest of us to suffer through these years. You seem to be the loser here, probably an un-educated, SUV driving, gas guzzling moron and you should be the one that is sent out of here. Take your ridiculous comments and go some where else.

3 July 2005, 00:06

If speaking the truth is unamerican, then I am completely proud not to be considered an American anymore and James Chaney should be too. America should be ashamed that people like you represent it.

28 June 2005, 07:20

there should be an easier way for THE PEOPLE to impeach a f*cking President who destroys our country and its future....destroys it in front of our eyes and in so many yet unrevealed ways. Bush is the EVIL that he claims to oppose.

29 June 2005, 09:15

Maybe a bullit to the head?

2 July 2005, 04:41

Thank you. Just...thank you.