

Speech given to the Collin County Democratic Convention

By Rick Koster

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I'm happy to see so many people at a Democratic event.

Having mobilized so many terrorists, Bush has now begun mobilizing Democrats. Traditionally, people who want to free things up politically and move in new directions have been called liberals, while those who like the old ways have been called conservatives.

Right now, in our politics, the terms have become inverted.

A group has seized control of the Republican Party and come to power and is sweeping aside all the things that made our country strong, and prosperous, and good, and respected—a group, in short, committed to radical change—, yet they call themselves conservatives.

Those of us who see these changes for what they are, the desecration of our great history and the ruination of our future—, those of us who want our America back the way it was before, a conservative wish, are left to call ourselves liberals.

I don't mind.

Every day more Americans are coming to feel as we do. By every means they can, through polls, in elections, Americans are saying they're sick of this gang.

It's about time. Look what these so-called conservatives haven't cared about conserving. Look what they've done away with in just five years.

Start with the fairness that has always been part of the American way, the level playing field that gave people from all over the world a chance to share the dream of freedom and dignity.

This gang can't be fair to ordinary Americans. No administration since McKinley's has been so contemptuous of ordinary Americans, so entirely in bed with corporate inter-

ests—as when the vice president sat down in secret with the executives of energy companies to make the republic’s energy policy.

No administration including McKinley’s has been so biased toward the rich.

Their tax policy is based on the book of Matthew 13:12—“**Whosoever has, to him shall be given. But whosoever has not, from him shall be taken away even the little he has.**”

Far from caring to conserve our American fairness, this gang is actively engaged in scrapping a century of measures, social security included, enacted to protect individuals from the social Darwinism of 19th century capitalism.

The gang’s chieftain has a personal antipathy to fairness.

As a young man he used his father’s influence to sneak past 500 of his fellow Americans into a safe nook in the Air National Guard.

In commanding the nation at war he has arranged things so that all the pain is borne by the troops and their families, while everyone else goes along as if no war existed, the tab to be picked up by future generations.

He didn’t care to conserve the trillion dollar surplus we Democrats handed him five years ago, or the balanced budget, or the favorable trade balance.

He and his gang haven’t cared a bit about conserving the manufacturing base that was the core of our economic strength.

They’ve watched happily as the factories and jobs depart, and we get deeper and deeper in debt to the Chinese.

But if their wastefulness were confined to economics we would be lucky. They have been even more careless with our basic principles.

If you teach religion in science class, you cultivate future generations who neither understand nor respect the special way of thinking about the world that modern societies are built on.

Bush says the jury’s still out on Darwin, but one thing is clear: he certainly isn’t the product of any sort of intelligent design.

And it isn’t just evolution. To the gang all science is a nuisance.

From the day they took office they have altered, suppressed or overridden scientific findings on global warming, pollution, missile defense, birth control the environment, and a host of other issues, appointing unqualified ideologues to scientific advisory commissions and forcing out authentic scientists who persist in pointing out inconvenient facts.

In 2004 seven Nobel Prizes in science were awarded, and Americans won six of them. That same year Americans reelected a president and administration that pander to the medieval mind.

What else can you say of people who make the Centers for Disease Control remove information on safe sex from the HIV-prevention web site and replace it with a plea for abstinence?

They don't care about conserving the health of the nation any more than they cared to conserve New Orleans.

They don't even care to preserve our most precious heritage, the one thing that sets our country apart from all other countries past or present.

It's not power or wealth or population or natural resources. Many countries have these, others have had them, others will have them in the future.

The United States of America is the only country in the history of the world that was founded for an ideal purpose. All the others just grew.

And our founding purpose was to establish and defend human rights.

People had spoken of human rights, but they never existed until our founders made those words flesh.

And from July 4 1776 until Bush and his gangsters took over, our country led the effort to preserve the rights we enjoy and extend them to others.

It wasn't easy. Time and again we were torn apart in the struggle between the ideals of our fathers and the paths of least resistance.

When we came to write a constitution, the path of least resistance was to count a slave as three fifths of a person in apportioning seats in Congress. That cost us a civil war, the worst trauma in our history, but in the end our ideals prevailed.

And it wasn't all hardship either. We've had the satisfaction of having nation after nation follow our lead.

We've had the benefit of the world's respect, and could count on it in times of trouble.

The gang doesn't get it. They don't see the material and moral benefit in being a nation true to ideals with the world's respect.

Two centuries of blood and sweat went into keeping faith with a few sacred principles, but the gang doesn't care to conserve them.

Today's path of least resistance is to forget the "all men" in Jefferson's phrase about being endowed with rights. Then you can lock people up and swallow the key.

Today's path of least resistance is torturing prisoners, and the gang has happily led us down it.

One of the most amazing events in American history took place last November. A reporter asked the President of the United States if our country tortures prisoners, and he had to responded.

Would George Washington have taken that question? Is there a single American president before George Bush who would have dignified that question with an answer? Before this gang came in not even our bitterest enemies accused us of torturing prisoners because the whole world would have laughed in their face.

Bush not only answered, he lied. "We don't torture," he said. And down in Hell, Richard Nixon, laughed out loud. Someone had finally topped his "I'm not a crook" statement.

But let's give the devil his due, Nixon was competent.

No one can say as much for Bush and his gang.

They are such a bunch of bumble-headed bunglers that even people who don't care about fairness, who don't understand that the U.S. won't work as a two-class country, who don't know the value of the world's respect or leadership in science or sacred principles are getting sicker of them by the minute.

We're not just on the right side any more, we're on the winning side, and it's about time.