

## Ramifications of Voting **Without Understanding Issues**

**I**t's said that "ignorance is bliss," meaning that the less you know about issues, the less stress you have, so you're happier. But as life unwinds behind me, I increasingly see that that is not true.

A case in point: It is common for poor blacks to lament their poverty and perceived inequality in America, though college scholarships for hard-working black students are abundant and Nigerians in America, who value education, have a median income well above the U.S. national average. Too, the highest-earning race in America is Asian, not white, and married blacks suffer less from poverty than whites. If black Americans knew enough about their economic predicament to know that it is not racism keeping them poor, but rather a reliance on subsistence handouts from Big Government that was brought into being mainly by the *Democratic* Lyndon Johnson administration — and Democrats since that day — their circumstances could quickly change.

Then there's the lack of understanding about religion and the pain that deficiency causes. Daily riots in cities have been taking place for months, with many attacks made against Christian people and symbols. Graffiti and vandalism have been done to religious buildings and objects in the false belief that Christianity has fostered racism and inequality. In truth, Christians have been almost solely responsible for great gains in women's empowerment, minority empowerment, and individual rights and freedoms. Meanwhile, anti-Christian rioters have destroyed neighborhoods and made innocent residents' lives miserable, spreading suffering in the name of justice — something that past, more-religious people would have vilified and stopped. And the so-called social justice being sought by rioters doesn't focus on equality of opportunity and equality of treatment — hallmarks of Christian religion — it calls for giving advantages to one race over another. It also vilifies and attacks people who are innocent of racist behavior because they belong to a certain group and tries to intimidate people into acquiescing to demands through violence. This behavior can only lead to more hate, violence, and hurt.

In a similar vein, as Americans have increasingly bought in to the notion that "sex without strings attached" should be encouraged — as is pushed by liberals the world over — the prevalence of dangerous sexually transmitted diseases has jumped and divorce has skyrocketed. And children from divorced couples are far more likely to suffer from physical and sexual abuse, become abusers themselves, commit suicide, run away or become home-



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less, have behavior disorders, not graduate from high school, and end up in prison. Youth education about the negative consequences of the "free sex" lifestyle could save this country many tens of billions of dollars a year, and stop loads of human misery.

Consequences caused by voting without educating oneself on the likely results of such a vote may be worse. For instance, many Americans intend to elect representatives to "save the Earth" through mandating usage of solar and wind power. Others plan to achieve open borders or put

government fully in charge of medical care.

Regarding mandates requiring wind and solar power, even a little thought about the subject would find problems with the storyline. While the would-be Earth-saviors rail against corporate executives for polluting and raping the Earth *out of greed*, they also believe that those same executives refuse to switch to *free*, renewable energy sources such as wind and solar that would provide them limitless piles of money merely by investing in the technology. To believe both things is simply ridiculous. And the truth is that executives have resisted "renewables" — despite government subsidies for more than 30 years — because solar and wind power are very expensive, unreliable, and inefficient, and there isn't yet a less-than-astronomically-expensive method to store the huge amounts of electricity that would be needed for times when the wind stops or the sun is not out (such as nighttime).

As to open borders, a 2017 study by the group Federation for American Immigration Reform shows that in education expenses, welfare benefits, law-enforcement and medical payments, and miscellaneous costs, illegal immigrants cost state, local, and national governments about \$116 billion per year, yet they pay only about \$19 billion in taxes — quite literally picking Americans' pockets. And if we legalize them, they become eligible for Social Security benefits and increased welfare. America is already going into debt at a rate of about a trillion dollars per year, bankrupting the country, so imagine our problems if the 160 million people who have said in surveys they want to move here actually come.

Finally, there's what's called Medicare for All. Not only do countries with similar systems have atrociously long waits for medical care because care is rationed, but the government-run healthcare we already have in America — Indian Health Service and the Veterans Administration — are renowned for wasting money, long waits, poor treatment, fraud, and more. Again, nonsense.

In retrospect, there's no doubt ignorance is not bliss. ■