

Daily Meditation 10/27/2022

The Meaning of the Mid-Term Elections, part III...

Good morning.

We are meditating today and our upcoming, and already in motion, midterm elections. And I'm asking what is the meaning of these midterm elections, for I, like many others today feel that this is a very important moment in American history, in the history of democracy, and that we should not be naive about what is going on around us with the denial of climate change, with the rise of authoritarianism, the explicit effort to kill democracy here in America.

Now I referred today to the option of government of the people, by the people and for the people put forward by Abraham Lincoln at the culmination of the Civil War, and the victory of Gettysburg. This, in contrast to two movements today: of the Koch Brothers, Opus Dei, and the corporations and billionaires they represent.

And I propose a serious article in the Daily Beast called "How Charles Koch Successfully Peddled the Snake Oil of Climate Denial." I'm going to share with you just some of the teachings in that article about the Koch brothers and Charles Koch, in particular, his brother now being deceased. But together they worked on their efforts to turn back movements to tackle climate change. So the author says,

It is commonly blamed on the greed of the petroleum industry (the ongoing climate catastrophe) but the most effective source of climate denial has been a single determined libertarian who thought he was creating a better world. The man is a billionaire industrialist, Charles Koch, the world's leading donor to libertarian causes. He has been a leader of the relentless effort to shrink government, which led to the disbanding of the federal Pandemic Response Team.

Let me say that again. This shrinking of government led to the disbanding of the federal Pandemic Response Team. Let us not forget that 1 million Americans lost their lives to the pandemic. People are still losing their lives to it.

...He was an early and generous funder of fake science denying climate change --

Not science, fake science, that denied climate change. He supported that. That's where the money goes in America.

...He wants to destroy most of the government's functions, medical care, Social Security, public education, roads and bridges. He has been trying to privatize mail delivery since the 1970s.

Well, just this brief litany is enough to know the forces that ordinary citizens are up against. Because John Roberts Court made it altogether feasible that unlimited amounts of dark money are free to slosh around in our political campaigns, because "corporations are people too." I don't think that's ever been up for a vote. That is the opinion of a court that in many ways was bought by Charles Koch.

Thank you; we'll see you tomorrow.