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99th KZGN News Talking Points Editorial
By: Tom Wiknich

I write today’s editorial totally amazed.

Today’s editorial is titled: Is it possible to discuss national security when it comes to keeping out people that want to kill us, without personal attacks?

The last editorial was titled: It seems the Syrian refugee problem is now splitting the country. I posted it on the Indian Wells Valley discussion group Facebook blog. I am shocked by the comments that were offered. The discussion started off pretty sane and on topic. It evolved into personal attacks on writers when points were made that could not be accurately disputed by the person on the other side of the issue. I received personal attacks when points were made, as well. I was called a liar, a bigot, and more. People declared I said things I never said. When you see these blogs you can see how many people are reading them, it’s very telling why others don’t make comments because people don’t want to subject themselves to personal attacks.

But you know what? I really don’t care about personal attacks. People can call me any names they want. It doesn’t bother me, nor does it make me wilt down and change my opinion. I realized that some people can’t handle the truth. When someone tries to use common sense to make an argument, and the opposition doesn’t want to, then it’s a problem. Facts are presented that dispute one position or another, and then someone goes berserk. It’s fascinating. One person will say 1 and 1 equals 2, but the opposition says it doesn’t. They would argue 1 plus 1 equals 2. “Plus” is the right word, not “and.” This is an example, not a topic of discussion. I guarantee someone will read this editorial and criticize the example. Anyway, back to the point of this example. The person saying “and” is the right word now gets into it with the other person that says you have to say “plus”.

The Internet is fantastic for providing supporting documentation to bolster ones position. One person will post the dictionary definition of both words. Another will find another slightly different dictionary definition to use. Then, we get Facebook videos of someone lecturing about the use of “and” and “plus”. Someone will find some college professor lecturing on the proper use of the words. Then the other person will find another scholar dissertation rebutting the argument, and all along, both are making legitimate points. One side gets so mad that they have to be right, that they lower the discussion to personal attacks.

Now the main topic: Should this country do more to ensure the Syrian refugees coming to this country are not disguised terrorists. First, I want to make one real clear point. I do not think all Syrians are terrorists, like one blogger tried to say I did. I have said that I know probably 95% are fine people. Just like in our own citizens, not all are fine upstanding people. Some are criminals. When it comes to these refugees, France has proven one and maybe even two of the terrorists snuck into France as Syrian refugees. Some of the people on the blogs see no problem with that. They try and deflect the problem, as we also have problems here now. I guess that means in their minds, since we already have problems, we may as well let more in. Does that make sense to any logical person? I equate that to a lesson I was taught very young. I was in the kitchen watching my mother cook, and I touched the hot stove, and got burned. If you know that touching a hot stove can severely hurt you, don’t touch it.

They say we need to screen them and let them in, and that the current screening process is fine. Even after the administration’s own heads of homeland security and the FBI have stated they do not have a way to completely screen them. I don’t understand how supporters of the refugees can rationalize that problem as no problem. Here we have ISIS in Syria putting out videos that they are going to attack us on our soil. They have declared that they will kill anyone that does not convert to Islam. They will destroy our civilized way of life. They are flat out warning us. Then we see millions of Syria refugees fleeing their country to get away from being killed by ISIS. Right from the start, some people were expressing concern that ISIS could export their terrorists into the west undercover of these migrations. We have evidence that they actually did so in France. Even with all that conclusive evidence, there are some that still think we should let them on our soil. I have to ask, how many times should we touch a hot stove before we learn not to do that?

Our elected officials have taken an oath to protect us from all enemies, foreign and domestic. I think we have enough crime and problems now in our country. Why would any sane person want to possibly invite more in? Why are most people screaming for more border security? This has nothing to do with fear. It has to be with being smart. I have not changed the way I live because of the terrorist threat. I don’t go to bed at night worried about them, but I expect the elected officials to carry out what they took an oath to do: provide for the security of our country. The supporters all feel the vetting process will catch the bad ones. Really? The administration’s own heads of homeland security and the FBI have said there is no way they can adequately vent these refugees. Syria is in total chaos. There is no access to records. Let’s support countries, like Jordan, that are begging for financial help to hold these refugees. I would like someone in the administration to come out and say why other Mideast countries are not taking them in? I bet these other country’s leaders are sitting in their offices laughing at the western countries.

Again, i want to be real clear. This editorial is not a slam against all Syrians. I know most are fine people. Even one gets through and kills someone or does another Boston bombing, then bad on us. What’s the old adage? Make a mistake once, learn from it. Make it a second time, dumb on me. I hope this is my last editorial on this topic.

In conclusion, step up Washington officials. Honor your oath to us to protect us from all enemies, foreign and domestic. Don’t invite them in without proper screening. Help other countries house them.

I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what I think. I’d like to know what you think. If you have any comments about this editorial, or would like to discuss or recommend a topic, I’d like to hear from you. Please email them to info@kzgn.net.