49th KZGN News Talking Points Editorial

Do we hear more about race now than we did just 7 years ago?

Has anyone noticed we are hearing more about race now than we did 7 years ago? I mean, we are hearing about race almost every night on the national news. While I won’t take away that there are some things going on that may be racial in context, I think the mainstream media is too fast to bring any issue between blacks and whites as a race issue. I think it started with President and Mrs. Obama, and it filters down from there. It includes the reluctance of the attorney general to prosequest things that some people were racially biased. There have been a number of cases not brought, or just kind of ignored, by former Attorney General Holder.

Now, to be fully open, I never supported Obama for president, but it had absolutely nothing to do with his race. Nothing. I didn’t support him because of he had no applicable experience to be President, and I was against almost all of his proposals, not because he was black. After all, the truth is he is only half black anyway. When the president took office, I was personally at a point that I didn’t see any difference between blacks, whites, or any other nationality. But now, I’m thinking more and more about it again, and I’m not comfortable with that. I was at a point that everyone was equal. Everyone is treated the same. I didn’t care about anyone’s race. But now, that has all changed.

There have been quick jumps to conclusions by the president about supposed race issues, that he has even admitted later that race was not in the equation. Every confrontation between a white police officer and a black person is not rooted in race. It’s about someone breaking the law or not doing what a police officer has ordered someone to do. I have had police officer training. All through the training it was stressed to us about everyone’s constitutional rights, and that we were to do everything possible to protect those rights. I mean, this was pounded into all the students over and over. But since Obama was elected, I think tensions have escalated dramatically. We are hearing about supposed “racial” conflicts almost every night. Why do the mainstream media seem to want to perpetuate this sentiment? Why aren’t they looking for the good things whites and blacks do? I don’t believe the mainstream media is helping this tension at all, but making it worse. They are keeping people spun up over some issue that they don’t even know the details of what happened. But there are already protestors in the streets protesting based on rumors. Not facts. The mainstream media continues to evolve innuendo into facts.

I was not raised in a racist home. As a matter of fact, race was seldom discussed. I was raised in a home where, getting a good education and getting a job was the most important thing to do in life. I was taught to get married, have kids, raise a family. I was taught to contribute to society as a whole and to find something that I could offer to help make our world better. It didn’t have to be anything big or major. Just do something. I was taught to not be a burden on society, to take care of myself and my family. Race didn’t come into the discussion. As a matter of fact, my first occurrence with racism was when I was in the army, and it wasn’t caused by the army. During training, and then as I became a radar instructor, I befriended a black fellow soldier. We got along great. We even had fun at work during the day. I got to like him so well, I even had him over to have dinner with my family more than once. It was kind of funny, but blacks in the army had this special handshake they always did with each other. My new friend taught me that hand shake. Then the race thing came in. One night, I was out at some event. I saw my friend there with some of his fellow black buddies. I went over to them to say hi. They kind of looked at me like what do you want? I tried to give the handshake, and they wouldn’t do it back. Even my friend wouldn’t do it with me. I finally took the hint and left them alone. The next day at the army base, I asked my friend why he shunned me last evening. He said he had to. His buddies didn’t want me around, and he had to go along with them. I told him that was nonsense. While he agreed that it was, he said that’s the way it is, and probably always will be. Well, needless to say, our friendship was never the same after that. We did stay friends, but not as close as we had been. I was not taught as a child to treat any other race badly. Did I hear about racism? Of course. Was I racist then. I don’t think so.

Here we are 40 years later, and racism is in the news every night. This has got to stop. But there are people that have race as their whole purpose in life. If there wasn’t racism, they’d have nothing to complain about. They’d have no purpose. They need to keep racism alive. The mainstream media is helping them do just that. Every run in between police officers and blacks is not about racism. 99% of the time, it’s about someone breaking the law, or not doing what the officer has ordered. Even in the Texas event yesterday, if those kids had followed the officer’s instructions, it would have never escalated to what happened. Police officers are trained to first get everyone to stop, calm down, and get control of the situation.

Then sort things out to determine what is happening. The officer could be heard on tape telling one of the young men for him to just sit there and wait till he was able to sort things out. No one was being arrested. Now, I am not saying the officer did the right thing by drawing his gun. To get control of the situation, the officer was ordering some of the kids to just go away. Go home. If the young girls had left the scene as ordered, the altercation would have never happened. But even worse than not leaving when ordered to do so, they came back to argue with the officer. It seems the mainstream media desires to bring racism into this one now. They are on this high horse that racism isn’t going away. The police departments have this as an ingrained problem that they have to do something about it. I can say one thing for sure. It is not ingrained in the Ridgecrest police department. That is my personal observed conclusion. Racism was a topic during training that everyone was to be treated equally with respect, and attention to not restricting a person’s constitutional rights. No one is being helped when there are false charges of racism. Come on mainstream media. Get all the facts, before bringing race into the discussion. You do it every time that some attack might be tied to terrorism. You show great constraint to get the facts before talking terrorism…usually. Do the same before bringing racism into a topic.

In conclusion, I can’t say racism is worse now than it was 7 years ago. But, it sure seems like it. I do believe President Obama has made it worse with his constant charges that racism is a problem that has to stop. We hear that there is still a lot of racism out there, every evening on the news. Enough already. This has got to stop. We are all equal. Let’s live that way.

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.