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Senators Byrd and Rockefeller

by
Tom Holbrook

So much going on in the world one just doesn't know what to write about or who to come down on. I could comment on the current U.S. Supreme Court's decision to disallow the death penalty for killers under the age of 18... or, the new case coming before them to allow or disallow the exhibiting of the Ten Commandments on public property. I will give my spin on one of them but first let me touch on something as equally important to me and our readers.

I got a message on my phone, but I was out of town for two weeks and just heard it. The caller was pleading with me to lay off of Senators Rockefeller and Byrd and suggesting that I give up this column on a permanent basis. The caller, a friend of mine, or at least I hope he still is, apparently believes I demand too much of our elected representatives and says I wrongly expect them to vote as I would vote if I were in their position.

Since I haven't voted for either of them for many years now there are those who could say I'm not really one of their constituents but, of course, I would disagree. Both of them, for whatever reason, have chosen to stick to the ridiculous Democrat party line of doom, gloom, woe is me, and bash Bush however they can. More importantly, they have not voted for the core values that represent the will and the wish of the majority of citizens of WV. It is hard to imagine that both of them really think it is okay for a 13 year old girl to be taken across a state line by someone other than a parent, without her parent's permission, and have an invasive surgery known more commonly as abortion performed on her. Yet, they both voted against a bill outlawing that scenario.

Both of them have brought dollars into the coffers of WV with pork barrel distributions, and we all should be grateful for that. However, they continually join with those of the Senate who have chosen to change the rules on Presidential appointees by voting in favor of continued obstruction on the up and down vote of much these much needed and highly qualified candidates. So yes, Gene, I do expect them to vote as I would vote on many issues because I personally feel it is the right thing to do. I find it difficult to comprehend that you actually believe these two men are acting in the best interests of your fellow West Virginians either. So, sorry, but until the publisher of this paper decides otherwise, I'm afraid you will have to continue to feel threatened by what I contribute each

week. Hopefully, you will come to see I'm correct in my opinion of their lack of true representation of the residents' stand on all the issues.

As for the other item in the news, the Supreme Court has given in to the cries of the ACLU and Amnesty International, while taking another big chunk out of the diminishing list of existing states rights. Their decision to outlaw the execution of murderers under the age of 18 was wrong. What makes the decision doubly wrong was the 5 justices voting for the decision chose to use International Law rather than our own U.S. Constitution as their basis of precedent. Reversing the Supreme Court's own decision it made 16 years ago, saying the execution of 16 and 17 year olds was constitutional, this sitting court felt it better to make their decision based on society's views of the law rather than the law itself. The majority's own words show my statement is true: *"In Roper v. Simmons, the Supreme Court found that executing child offenders violates the US Constitution, concluding that a national consensus against such executions had evolved since 1989 when it ruled that the execution of 16- and 17-year-old offenders was constitutional. The Court had considered national and international trends, scientific evidence, and appeals from religious, human rights, legal and child advocacy organizations." (No Constitution???)*

The men, and ladies, in black should remember their job is to interpret the U.S. Constitution as it applies to the law, *NOT* create new laws themselves nor allow the laws and opinions of other countries determine the decisions made on the bench. This is a perfect example of why our country is in the judicial turmoil it is today and slowly siding South. It also emphasizes the importance of allowing our president's judicial appointees to be afforded their up and down vote in the United States Senate. Sorry Gene, but I'm right on this one.

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