



# Patriots Periodical

Upshur County Patriots, Camp #2109  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Gilmer, Texas

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Eddie "Spook" Pricer



Last month, I wrote on the 4th of July and touched on how issues brought about the Colonies declaring independence and then the Southern States some 85 odd years later. Nothing seems to have changed. People forget or don't even know how or why this Country was created, much less how the Confederate States came about.

Recent terrible events have brought on a feeding frenzy, like I've never seen before by the politically correct crowd, the politicians looking for a vote, and the uninformed and I don't think it's because July is shark month on television.

Most of this month's Newsletter is devoted to an essay written by Fox New Analyst Megyn Kelly on Facebook. It is poignant and to the point. Study it, learn it and use it.

Our beloved Jack Hamil left his earthly bonds Monday July 20, 2015 to be with his Savior as he begins his next journey. Jack touched all who knew him and will be sorely missed.

Jack always had a smile, a kind word, and a humorous story to tell. His depth of knowledge and willingness to share all he had learned, made each of us the better for it. He invited us into his home and his life. You learned quickly how much he cherished his wife Jean, his children and grandchildren. Sitting on the screened porch and gazing with him at the trees and flowers you felt just how much he appreciated life. Of course, there would be at least one or two stories on catching fish with the "kids" at the pond and how the deer ate his plants.

Jack's love extended to his friends as well. You merely had to mention a project or a problem and Jack was ready and willing to lend a hand. He taught us how to hold each other in our hearts, as we must now do, to keep his friendship and love in our hearts so we may pass on to others his gift of giving.

## Chaplain Jack Hamil 1928-2015



Chaplain Jack Hamil was the commensurate Compatriot in the Sons of Confederate Veterans. He led by example and was tireless in his efforts to provide for our spiritual needs. His Confederate Ancestors would be proud of him and tell all that he had fulfilled "The Charge". Deo Vendice.

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## The Guardian

by Phil Davis

For the past few weeks, our Southern Heritage has been and continues to be under attack from all sides. Sadly, the shortsightedness of so many in this country who know nothing or next to nothing of the history of this continent are acting like the old milk wagon horse. They have blinders on, seeing only the tasty bag of oats in front of them and having not a

clue as to the repercussions of what their politically correct actions. The ramifications of allowing flags to be taken down at the expense of others or monuments to be moved will lead to worse travesties. What's next? Digging up our Ancestors, followed by anyone Southern. Where will they put us? I think the garbage dump, that's if they even allow us to stay in the lower 48.

So I say again to you,

**Are You A Guardian?                      If Not Why Not?**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, August 4th, at 7:00 p.m.  
Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.  
Hadden's Sandwich Shop  
On the Square, Gilmer, Texas

## "The Confederate Flag Needs To Be Raised, Not Lowered"

*By: Megyn Kelly*



Ladies and gentlemen, I submit that what we see happening in the United States today is an apt illustration of why the Confederate flag was raised in the first place. What we see materializing before our very eyes *is tyranny*: tyranny over the freedom of

expression, tyranny over the freedom of association, tyranny over the freedom of speech, and tyranny over the freedom of conscience.

In 1864, Confederate General Patrick Cleburne warned his fellow southerners of the historical consequences should the South lose their war for independence. He was truly a prophet. He said if the South lost, "*It means that the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy. That our youth will be trained by Northern school teachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the war; will be impressed by all of the influences of History and Education to regard our gallant debt as traitors and our maimed veterans as fit subjects for derision.*" No truer words were ever spoken.

History revisionists flooded America's public schools with Northern propaganda about the people who attempted to secede from the United States, characterizing them as racists, extremists, radicals, hatemongers, traitors, etc. You know, the same way that people in our federal government and news media attempt to characterize Christians, patriots, war veterans, constitutionalists, et al. today.

Folks, please understand that the only people in 1861 who believed that states did NOT have the right to secede were Abraham Lincoln and his radical Republicans. To say that southern states did not have the right to secede from the United States is to say that the thirteen colonies did not have the right to secede from Great Britain. *One cannot be right and the other wrong.* If one is right, both are right. How can we celebrate our Declaration of Independence in 1776 and then turn around and condemn the Declaration of Independence of the Confederacy in 1861? Talk about hypocrisy!

In fact, southern states were *not* the only states that talked about secession. After the southern states seceded, the *State of Maryland* fully intended to join them. In September of 1861, Lincoln sent federal

troops to the State capital and *seized the legislature by force* in order to *prevent them from voting*. Federal provost marshals stood guard at the polls and arrested Democrats and anyone else who believed in secession. A special furlough was granted to Maryland troops so they could go home and vote against secession. Judges who tried to inquire into the phony elections were arrested and thrown into military prisons. There is your great “emancipator,” folks.

And before the South seceded, *several northern states had also threatened secession*. Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island had threatened secession as far back as James Madison’s administration. In addition, the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware were threatening secession during the first half of the nineteenth century—long before the southern states even considered such a thing.

People say constantly that Lincoln “saved” the Union. Lincoln didn’t save the Union; he subjugated the Union. There is a huge difference. A union that is *not voluntary* is not a union. Does a man have a right to force a woman to marry him or to force a woman to stay married to him? In the eyes of God, a union of husband and wife is far superior to a union of states. If God recognizes the right of husbands and wives to separate (and He does), to try and suggest that states do not have the right to lawfully (under Natural and divine right) separate is the most preposterous proposition imaginable.

People say that Lincoln freed the slaves. Lincoln did NOT free a single slave. But what he did do was *enslave free men*. His so-called Emancipation Proclamation had NO AUTHORITY in the southern states, as they had separated into another country. Imagine a President today signing a proclamation to free folks in, say, China or Saudi Arabia. He would be laughed out of Washington. Lincoln had *no*

*authority* over the Confederate States of America, and he knew it.

Do you not find it interesting that Lincoln’s proclamation did NOT free a single slave in the United States, the country in which he DID have authority? That’s right. The Emancipation Proclamation *deliberately ignored slavery in the North*. Do you not realize that when Lincoln signed his proclamation, there were over 300,000 *slaveholders* who were fighting in the Union army? Check it out.

One of those northern slaveholders was General (and later U.S. President) Ulysses S. Grant. In fact, he maintained possession of his slaves even *after* the War Between the States concluded. Recall that his counterpart, Confederate General Robert E. Lee, *freed his slaves* BEFORE hostilities between North and South ever broke out. When asked why he refused to free his slaves, Grant said: “*Good help is hard to find these days.*”

The institution of slavery did not end until the 13th Amendment was ratified on December 6, 1865.

Speaking of the 13th Amendment, did you know that Lincoln authored his own 13th Amendment? It is the only amendment to the Constitution ever proposed by a sitting U.S. President. Here is Lincoln’s proposed amendment: “*No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give Congress the power to abolish or interfere within any state with the domestic institutions thereof, including that a person’s held to labor or service by laws of said State.*”

You read it right. Lincoln proposed an amendment to the U.S. Constitution PRESERVING the institution of slavery. This proposed amendment was written in March of 1861, a month BEFORE the shots were fired at Fort Sumter, South Carolina.

The State of South Carolina was particularly incensed *at the tariffs* enacted in 1828 and 1832. The Tariff of 1828 was disdainfully called “*The Tariff of Abominations*” by the State of South Carolina. Accordingly, the South Carolina legislature declared that the tariffs of 1828 and 1832 were “*unauthorized by the constitution of the United States.*”

Think, folks: why would the southern states secede from the Union over slavery when President Abraham Lincoln had offered an amendment to the Constitution *guaranteeing* the PRESERVATION of slavery? That makes no sense. If the issue was predominantly slavery, all the South needed to do was to go along with Lincoln; and his proposed 13th Amendment would have permanently preserved slavery among the southern (and northern) states. Does that sound like a body of people who were willing to lose hundreds of thousands of men on the battlefield over saving slavery? What nonsense!

The problem was Lincoln wanted the southern states to pay the Union a *40% tariff* on their exports. The South considered this outrageous and refused to pay. By the time hostilities broke out in 1861, the South was paying up to, and perhaps exceeding, *70% of the nation's taxes*. Before the war, the South was very prosperous and productive. And *Washington, D.C., kept raising the taxes and tariffs on them*. You know, the way Washington, D.C., keeps raising the taxes on prosperous American citizens today.

This is much the same story of the way the colonies refused to pay the demanded tariffs of the British Crown—albeit the tariffs of the Crown were MUCH lower than those demanded by Lincoln. Lincoln's proposed 13th Amendment was an attempt to entice the South into paying the tariffs by being willing to permanently ensconce the institution of slavery into the Constitution. AND THE SOUTH SAID NO!

In addition, the Congressional Record of the United States forever obliterates the notion that the North

fought the War Between the States over slavery. *Read it for yourself*. This resolution was passed unanimously in the U.S. Congress on July 23, 1861: “*The War is waged by the government of the United States not in the spirit of conquest or subjugation, nor for the purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or institutions of the states, but to defend and protect the Union.*”

What could be clearer? The U.S. Congress declared that the war against the South was NOT an attempt to overthrow or interfere with the “institutions” of the states, but to keep the Union intact (by force). The “institutions” implied most certainly included the institution of slavery.

Hear it loudly and clearly: Lincoln's war against the South had NOTHING to do with ending slavery—so said the U.S. Congress by unanimous resolution in 1861.

Abraham Lincoln, himself, said it was NEVER his intention to end the institution of slavery. In a letter to Alexander Stevens, who later became the Vice President of the Confederacy, Lincoln wrote this: “*Do the people of the South really entertain fears that a Republican administration would directly, or indirectly, interfere with their slaves, or with them, about their slaves? If they do, I wish to assure you, as once a friend, and still, I hope, not an enemy, that there is no cause for such fears. The South would be in no more danger in this respect than it was in the days of Washington.*”

Again, what could be clearer? Lincoln, himself, said the southern states had nothing to fear from him in regard to abolishing slavery.

Hear Lincoln again: “*If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it.*” He also said: “*I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states*

*where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so and I have no inclination to do so."*

The idea that the Confederate flag (actually, there were five of them) stood for racism, bigotry, hatred, and slavery is just so much hogwash. In fact, if one truly wants to discover who the racist was in 1861, just read the words of Mr. Lincoln.

On August 14, 1862, Abraham Lincoln invited a group of black people to the White House. In his address to them, he told them of his plans to *colonize them all back to Africa*. Listen to what he told these folks: *"Why should the people of your race be colonized and where? Why should they leave this country? This is, perhaps, the first question for proper consideration. You and we are different races. We have between us a broader difference than exists between almost any other two races. Whether it is right or wrong I need not discuss; but this physical difference is a great disadvantage to us both, as I think. Your race suffers very greatly, many of them, by living among us, while ours suffers from your presence. In a word, we suffer on each side. If this is admitted, it affords a reason, at least, why we should be separated. You here are freemen, I suppose? Perhaps you have been long free, or all your lives. Your race is suffering, in my judgment, the greatest wrong inflicted on any people. But even when you cease to be slaves, you are yet far removed from being placed on an equality with the white race. The aspiration of men is to enjoy equality with the best when free, but on this broad continent not a single man of your race is made the equal of a single man of our race."*

Did you hear what Lincoln said? He said that black people would NEVER be equal with white people—even if they all obtained their freedom from slavery. If that isn't a racist statement, I've never heard one.

Lincoln's statement above is not isolated. In Charleston, Illinois, in 1858, Lincoln said in a

*speech: "I am not, nor have ever been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races. I am not nor ever have been in favor of making voters or jurors of negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people; I will say in addition to this that there is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races from living together on social or political equality. And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white."*

Ladies and gentlemen, *in his own words*, Abraham Lincoln declared himself to be a *white supremacist*. Why don't our history books and news media tell the American people the truth about Lincoln and about the War Between the States?

It's simple: if people would study the meanings and history of the flag, symbols, and statues of the Confederacy and Confederate leaders, they might begin to awaken to the tyrannical policies of Washington, D.C., that precluded southern independence—policies that have only escalated since the defeat of the Confederacy—and they might have a notion to again resist.

By the time Lincoln penned his Emancipation Proclamation, the war had been going on for two years without resolution. In fact, the North was *losing the war*. Even though the South was outmanned and out-equipped, the genius of the southern generals and fighting acumen of the southern men had put the northern armies on their heels. Many people in the North never saw the legitimacy of Lincoln's war in the first place, and many of them actively campaigned against it. These people were affectionately called "Copperheads" by people in the South.

I urge you to watch Ron Maxwell's accurate depiction of those people in the North who favored the southern cause as depicted in his motion picture, "*Copperhead*." For that matter, I consider his movie "*Gods And Generals*" to be the greatest "Civil War" movie ever made. It is the most accurate and fairest depiction of Confederate General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson ever produced. In my opinion, actor Stephen Lang should have received an Oscar for his performance as General Jackson. But, can you imagine?

That's another thing: the war fought from 1861 to 1865 was NOT a "civil war." Civil war suggests two sides fighting for control of the same capital and country. The South didn't want to take over Washington, D.C., no more than their forebears wanted to take over London. They wanted to separate from Washington, D.C., just as America's Founding Fathers wanted to separate from Great Britain. The proper names for that war are either, "The War Between the States" or, "The War of Southern Independence," or, more fittingly, "The War of Northern Aggression."

Had the South wanted to take over Washington, D.C., they could have done so with the very first battle of the "Civil War." When Lincoln ordered federal troops to invade Virginia in the First Battle of Manassas (called the "First Battle of Bull Run" by the North), Confederate troops sent the Yankees running for their lives all the way back to Washington. Had the Confederates pursued them, they could have easily taken the city of Washington, D.C., seized Abraham Lincoln, and perhaps ended the war before it really began. But General Beauregard and the others had no intention of fighting an aggressive war against the North. They merely wanted to defend the South against the aggression of the North.

In order to rally people in the North, Lincoln needed a moral crusade. That's what his Emancipation Proclamation was all about. This explains why his proclamation was not penned until 1863, after two years of fruitless fighting. He was counting on people in the North to stop resisting his war against the South if they thought it was some kind of "holy" war. Plus, Lincoln was hoping that his proclamation would incite blacks in the South to insurrect against southern whites. If thousands of blacks would begin to wage war against their white neighbors, the fighting men of the southern armies would have to leave the battlefields and go home to defend their families. THIS NEVER HAPPENED.

Not only did blacks not riot against the whites of the south, many black men volunteered to fight alongside their white friends and neighbors in the Confederate army. Unlike the blacks in the North, who were conscripted by Lincoln and forced to fight in segregated units, thousands of blacks in the South fought of their own free will in a fully-integrated southern army. I bet your history book never told you about that.

If one wants to ban a racist flag, one would have to ban the British flag. Ships bearing the Union Jack shipped over 5 million African slaves to countries all over the world, including the British colonies in North America. Other slave ships flew the Dutch flag and the Portuguese flag and the Spanish flag, and, yes, the U.S. flag. But not one single slave ship flew the Confederate flag. NOT ONE!

By the time Lincoln launched his war against the southern states, slavery was already a dying institution. The entire country, including the South, recognized the moral evil of slavery and wanted it to end. Only a small fraction of southerners even owned slaves. The slave trade had ended in 1808, per the U.S. Constitution, and the practice of slavery was quickly dying, too. In another few years, with the

advent of agricultural machinery, slavery would have ended peacefully—just like it had in England. It didn't take a national war and the deaths of over a half million men to end slavery in Great Britain. America's so-called "Civil War" was absolutely unnecessary. The greed of Lincoln's radical Republicans in the North, combined with the cold, calloused heart of Lincoln himself is responsible for the tragedy of the "Civil War."

And look at what is happening now: in one instant—after one deranged young man killed nine black people and who ostensibly photo-shopped a picture of himself with a Confederate flag—the entire political and media establishments in the country go on an all-out crusade to remove all semblances of the Confederacy. The speed in which all of this has happened suggests that this was a planned, orchestrated event by the Powers That Be (PTB). And is it a mere coincidence that this took place at the exact same time that the U.S. Supreme Court decided to legalize same-sex marriage? I think not.

The Confederate Battle Flag flies the Saint Andrews cross. Of course, Andrew was the first disciple of Jesus Christ, brother of Simon Peter, and Christian martyr who was crucified on an X-shaped cross at around the age of 90. Andrew is the patron saint of both Russia and Scotland.

In the 1800s, up to 75% of people in the South were either Scotch or Scotch-Irish. The Confederate Battle Flag is predicated on the national flag of Scotland. It is a symbol of the Christian faith and heritage of the Celtic race.

Pastor John Weaver rightly observed, "Even the Confederate States motto, 'Deovendickia,' (The Lord is our Vindicator), illustrates the sovereignty and the righteousness of God. The Saint Andrews cross is also known as the Greek letter CHIA (KEE) and has historically been used to represent Jesus Christ. Why do you think people write Merry X-mas,

just to give you an illustration? The 'X' is the Greek letter CHIA and it has been historically used for Christ. Moreover, its importance was understood by educated and uneducated people alike. When an uneducated man, one that could not write, needed to sign his name please tell me what letter he made? An 'X,' why? Because he was saying I am taking an oath under God. I am recognizing the sovereignty of God, the providence of God and I am pledging my faith. May I tell you the Confederate Flag is indeed a Christian flag because it has the cross of Saint Andrew, who was a Christian martyr, and the letter 'X' has always been used to represent Christ, and to attack the flag is to deny the sovereignty, the majesty, and the might of the Lord Jesus Christ and his divine role in our history, culture, and life."

Many of the facts that I reference in this column were included in a message delivered several years ago by Pastor John Weaver. I want to thank John for preaching such a powerful and needed message. Read or watch Pastor Weaver's sermon "[The Truth About The Confederate Battle Flag](#)".

Combine the current attacks against Biblical and traditional marriage, the attacks against all things Confederate, the attacks against all things Christian, and the attacks against all things constitutional and what we are witnessing is a heightened example of why the Confederate Battle Flag was created to begin with. Virtually every act of federal usurpation of liberty that we are witnessing today, and have been witnessing for much of the twentieth century, is the result of Lincoln's war against the South. Truly, we are living in Lincoln's America, not Washington and Jefferson's America. Washington and Jefferson's America died at Appomattox Court House in 1865.

Instead of lowering the Confederate flag, we should be raising it.

## Our Charge...

**"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."**

*Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General,  
United Confederate Veterans,  
New Orleans, Louisiana April 25, 1906*

## Our Honored Ancestors

**Thomas Jefferson Knight  
Private  
Co. G, 17th Texas Cavalry  
Moore's Regiment**

Thomas Jefferson Knight, the first child and son of Solomon and Sarah Elizabeth Knight was born on June 27, 1827 in Paris, Bedford County, Tennessee.

Thomas and his family moved to Texas a short time after it became a Republic. In 1836, Thomas Jefferson was living in Upshur County, Texas. He was one of the earliest pioneer settlers of Upshur County. Thomas and his wife Martha Ann Sanders whom he married in 1848 in Shelby County, Texas had eleven children.

On March 1, 1862, in Gilmer, Texas, Thomas Jefferson answered the call to defend his country. Thomas enlisted in the Confederate Army as a Private in Company G, 17th Texas Cavalry (Moore's Regiment). His enlisting officer was Thomas J. Johnson. Thomas was 37 years old when he enlisted.

Official documents show that the valuation of his horse was \$175.00 and other equipment \$30.00.

The 17th regiment took part in numerous battles including Arkansas Post, Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga and the battle of Lookout Mountain. The regiment was captured at Arkansas Post on January 11, 1863, and was, exchanged east of the Mississippi River in April and May of 1863.

The 17th Texas Cavalry was paroled at Greensboro, North Carolina on May 1, 1865. When Thomas was on his way home from the long war, he was in very poor physical condition. January 31, 1892, Thomas Jefferson Knight died at his home in Enon, Upshur County, Texas. He is buried in the Grice Cemetery west of Gilmer.

The Epitaph on Thomas Jefferson Knight's headstone reads: "To forget is a vain endeavor, Remembrance last forever".

On September 6, 2014, Private Thomas Jefferson Knight was one of seventeen Confederate soldiers being honored with a Memorial at Grice Cemetery for their call to duty in defending their southland. I was truly honored and blessed to have taken part in the ceremony honoring our true Southern Heroes, especially my 5th Great-Grandfather Private Thomas Jefferson Knight.

Thomas Jefferson Knight endured all and gave all for the cause in which he believed in.



**Should we bottle up our feelings?**



## Proverbs 14:29

"He that is slow to wrath is of great Understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly."

Not exactly. Our emotions are part of our personality. It depends upon how we are acting in a given situation. Emotions can hurt us, or they can help us.

When used properly, emotions should be neither buried nor denied. Reasoning and temperament will govern the situation.

When insulted by friend or foe, feelings of Upset are just. Retaliation might not be a Good idea.

"A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame." prov.12:16

If presented with an angry confrontation, a soft answer is the sign of someone who is wise.

Feelings are healthy, and allowing others to know how we feel is just. It's how we present our feelings that can make an unhealthy situation go away.

A present situation connected with our Forefathers is testing the fabric of deep Emotions. We must speak truthfully, always, and with gentleness, and stand firm on our convictions.

*Jamie Eitson*  
*Camp Chaplain*

## MONTHLY PROGRAM

Last Month's program, Artifacts and Weapons was given by Compatriot John Hitt. John not only spoke of the different "Repeater" Rifles that were used by our Confederate Ancestors, he also demonstrated with the use of many of his own weapons and with the ammunition that was used in them.



*John Hitt showing one of many rifles he talked about*

## OUR PLEDGES



### PLEDGE TO THE U.S. FLAG:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag Of the United States of America, And to the republic for which it stands, One nation, under God, indivisible, With liberty and justice for all.



### PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG:

Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.



### SALUTE TO THE CONFEDERATE FLAG:

I salute the Confederate Flag With affection, reverence, and Undying devotion to the cause For which it stands.

## **Camp Leadership Upshur County Patriots Camp #2109**

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The Government does not now recognize itself as an ordinance of God, and when all the checks and balances of the Constitution are gone, we may easily figure to ourselves the career and the destiny of this godless monster of democratic absolutism. The progress of regulated liberty on this continent will be arrested, anarchy will soon succeed, and the end will be a military despotism, which preserves order by the sacrifice of the last vestige of liberty.

They are now fighting the battle of despotism. They have put their Constitution under their feet; they have annulled its most sacred provisions; The future fortunes of our children, and of this continent, would then be determined by a tyranny which has no parallel in history.”

*Dr. James Henly Thornwell of South Carolina, in Our Danger and our Duty, 1862*

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## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Due to space requirements, the pictures and story from our Awards Ceremony at our July meeting is being postponed until next month's newsletter. Watch for it then.

*Joe Reynolds*

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“If they (the North) prevail, the whole character of the Government will be changed, and instead of a federal republic, the common agent of sovereign and independent States, we shall have a central despotism, with the notion of States forever abolished, deriving its powers from the will, and shaping its policy according to the wishes, of a numerical majority of the people; we shall have, in other words, a supreme, irresponsible democracy.

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