

On Sun, Jan 23, 2022 at 11:22 AM John Phillips <john.phillips@lp.org> wrote:

Sending this to the JC as it also reflects my opinion on the Delaware issue currently before you.

My statement regarding tonight's meeting.

I have read the statements by both sides. I have had some discreet conversations.

My opinion is the same as my opinion ended on Delaware. There were bad actions taken by individuals and groups on both sides. There were people with questionable intentions on both sides. There were also people with good intentions trying to do the right thing on both sides that got swept along in the melee.

None of which changes the fact that this body has no authority to take action, either by our own bylaws or morally.

Our own bylaws give states full autonomy, with only disaffiliation being an option in extreme cases. An option that is removed in the 6 months before convention.

Morally this body getting involved is the same as our government interfering in other countries or our federal government interfering in the governing of states. Actions we claim to stand firmly against. Are we hypocrites like the old parties we strive against?

In my opinion that parallel can be taken even further. I see lots of people with good intentions on all sides. I also see people taking advantage of the disagreements, inciting more discord, creating greater strife and using the factions for their own reasons, including but not limited to personal aggrandizement, gain, and settling personal disagreements. All the while claiming to care about damage to our members and affiliates, while in fact creating more and worse damage by their actions.

Again, just like the actions of our own government (and others like Russia, China, etc) interfering and creating conflict in other countries, causing more damage and hurting the populace while claiming good intentions. Actions like we just spoke against in the sending of arms to the Ukraine, that we spoke against in the middle east for decades, that we speak against when the federal government pressures states to fall in line.

Actions we claim to stand against, yet repeat in our internal affairs. Yes, some with good intentions - on all sides, but we all know what the road to hell is paved with.

As such I not only agree that this meeting should be cancelled, I scream it from the fences. I believe it so firmly that just like the vote on the Delaware motion that should you insist on continuing this inanity I refuse to participate and refuse to attend.

At this time holding this meeting will do nothing but further conflict, while damaging our institution and members, because we simply have no authority to do anything.

People with good intentions on both sides will be used by others to further personal agendas and gain. Grandstanding and disingenuous statements will fly both during and after. Continuing to tear apart and damage this party, achieving the goals of those who stand against us without them lifting a finger.

So I will not participate, and I will urge everyone to look very closely at those who do. Some will have good intentions, some will not, some will rationalize what they do and the results. Look and think about how many steps we are taking down the road to hell.

I will mention one specific thing on the subject of good intentions.

Ms Adams has a what appears to be a valid tangential concern, which should be addressed. I disagree with her that this needs to be addressed at this meeting, I believe that can happen via the mailing list relatively easily, and its relation to the other matters is as I said only tangential.

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