

CENSORSHIP IS NOT FREEDOM

An Op-ed by William J. Murray

Only in an Orwellian mind are the people's rights protected by taking away their right of free speech.

A culture of fear is crippling the American workplace. For centuries the workplace has been free and open to ideas and cultures. Indeed the American workplace was the fire under the melting pot that made this nation great. No more. The workplace in America is no longer a melting pot; it is a multi-cultural nightmare in which every worker lives in a constant state of justifiable fear.

Multicultural consulting firms are now hired by major corporations to train managers to suppress the thoughts and the speech of employees. Break rooms that were once full of laughter and jokes are now silent as they are monitored for politically correct content. Memos are posted on the walls reminding employees not use "offensive" language. Two decades ago such a memo would mean not to curse or use the Lord's name in vain. Today "offensive" means uttering the words "Merry Christmas" or inviting someone to your church's Christmas pageant. In today's corporate culture no one may say anything, write anything or wear anything that might offend some minority, either real or perceived.

One of our suppliers recently sent us a newsletter along with our monthly statement. The newsletter contained a column entitled "Culturally Sensitive Celebrations." Some of the tips included, "Be aware of the seasonal religious observances that may affect your workforce. Don't focus on Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanzaa Consider Ramadan or Diwali too." Oddly Dilawi and Ramadan are harvest time celebrations that have nothing to do with the month of December but the Multicultural consulting firm of Novations/J. Howard wants us to mix them in with Christmas anyway.

The newsletter's featured tips from Novations also advised, "During the upcoming winter holidays, decorate with snowflakes or a winter theme, rather than the traditional red and green." Finally we were advised to move any parties or events to January, apparently so no one could confuse it with a Christmas party. We were told that this would be beneficial because it would stop "...letting religious and cultural differences keep us apart."

America's major corporations are leaders in creating a new right, the "right not to be offended." This new right, which began in Scandinavian nations, has spread throughout Europe and Canada and now threatens free speech in the United States. In Sweden a pastor was sentenced to jail for offending homosexuals, and in Canada men have been fined and forced to work in mosques because they offended Muslims. In America those who utter the word Christmas are now targeted as offenders by the same people who champion the "hate crimes" laws that squelch free speech in Europe and Canada.

This new so-called right not to be offended and the right to free speech are not compatible. In some nations such as Canada the right to free speech has been lost. Even Christian ministries in the United States must alter their TV and radio broadcasts to suit Canadian censors and the written word is stopped at the Canadian border if it is deemed offensive to any group. But, free speech is still salvageable in the United States. To salvage free speech, the politically correct corporate culture in America must be destroyed before it creeps into government and destroys our rights.

The constant attack against anything traditionally American or Judeo-Christian, must be cast out of America's corporate soul and the exorcism of this demon should center on Christmas. Christmas is not about the bottom line of Target or Wal-Mart, it is about the birth of Jesus Christ and no Christian should be coerced or shamed into being silent about His birth. Come December 23rd of this year every Christian in America should walk into his boss's office before going home and say, Merry Christmas.

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