

As I See It

By Fannie Wiley Preston, Ph.D.

Former Dean, School of Education, Saint Mary's College of California

You will be asked....*"In 2025, when our democracy was threatened and we were faced with a constitutional crisis, what did you do?"*

When all the civil rights advances of the last thirty years are being swept away at the stroke of a pen, did you sit ...do nothing, watch TV...? Did you write a letter, make a phone call, attend a meeting or rally, make a sign, something – anything, to make your voice heard... This is not the time to sit idly by.

An elected official who is a convicted felon, ... breaks laws with impunity, uses intimidation as a strategy, ... brooks no dissent, demands that others break the law, and uses the law when it is to his advantage. A bully who lies, ..., takes an oath to the Constitution and then breaks it's every tenant. ...

.. a “great” businessman who will manage inflation and lower prices. Look at the global trade war and our relationship with our former allies. He has done just the opposite. He says that *“we have to suffer short term pain for long term gain.”* According to experts, there is no “gain” later. ...it will take decades to repair the trust of the global community.

... He has just received permission to round up people and send them wherever he wants. But the court ordered him to bring them back from El Salvador and give them each due process. He has not obeyed... says his hands are tied. We are paying a foreign country millions of dollars and the foreign leader is mocking our courts.

...A person who surrounds himself with incompetence, makes loyalty is the only criterion for the most sensitive jobs,... who turns the running of the country over to oligarchs to whom he relinquishes his power for their “piggy bank.” ...A person who hits hard in order to confuse and overwhelm. ..signing multiple executive orders in a single day, rescinding many of them the next day, creating confusion - “oops, I didn’t know I was firing the people maintaining our nuclear arsenal ...”

There is only one thing to do – hit him hard, hit him fast, organize and mobilize. ... Let us counter him at every turn. Our priority needs to be our common good - the things we agree on: our Constitution, our laws, our right to due process, our Democracy. Rest.....if you must ...but return to the fight.

What did you do when your country needed you? ...

One person can light a spark that influences others. Martin Luther King, Jr. ... Mary Rogers... A. Phillip Randolph... Rev. Amos Brown..., were each that one person. We all know what they did to fight injustice and force America to face itself and the promise of its Constitution. ...Corey Booker is one person. Look what he did: with his 24 plus-hour speech in the Senate Chamber, he changed the narrative in the country, mobilized and inspired his party to begin to challenge every act of the bully. His party is not in power, but they have found their voice and realized they are not powerless. They are holding rallies and town halls in red States....

It is time to get in the fight to save our Democracy. Your Constitution gives you the right to fight, speak your mind and demonstrate against injustice as long as it is done peacefully. **Stay tuned. More is yet to come. Take action NOW!!! There is no time to waste.**

NOTE: The opinions described in this editorial are solely that of the author. From time to time, the Society accepts articles and editorials from members and friends in the interest of informing the broader community.