

A proud Democrat speaks his mind

I was insulted the other day, by someone I've known many years. I was told I should change my party registration to "Republican." It was intended as an insult. I took it as such. I don't hold it against the person. She habitually speaks bluntly, and I've often admired that trait in her. I know where she stands. I also like vinegar on my salad and my French Bread extra sour

I am not a Republican, American Independent, Green, Natural Law member, Peace and Freedom partisan, Reform party person, or a Libertarian. I never decline to state my preference. I am a Democrat. I think of myself as a Roosevelt Democrat. I'm a past president of the Pacifica Democrats, and a past VP. I am a co-founder of two other Democratic clubs. I voted for only one Republican presidential candidate in my life. That mistake I attribute to a momentary lapse in judgment.

I don't mean I vote blindly. I proudly voted for Pete McCloskey as our congressman. (If you don't know Pete, his grandfather built the castle. That's not why I voted for him. He was and is a man of massive integrity. I like integrity in a politician, no matter which party he or she does or does not belong to. That's why I like Jackie Speier and Quentin Kopp.)

I am also the delegate to a state Democratic convention who wore the badge "It's Great To Be Alive, especially if you're a Pro-life Democrat."

That, too, may cause some people to suggest a switch, but fact is, the Pro-life coalition draws together not only religionists and right-wingers, and a Democratic governor or two, but even some liberals like Nat Hentoff who don't necessarily have a religious motivation, but recognize abortion for the injustice it is. It doesn't take a conservative or a fundamentalist to recognize injustice.

Unfortunately, at this particular time, pro-life is not a majority view in the Democratic party. My goal is to see this change.

My concerns are for justice, and I believe this is the basic premise of the Democratic Party as well. I object to injustice, whether it involves racial or sex discrimination, or merging lots to satisfy some faction's political agenda. Justice is the bottom line.

In fact, the immediate reason I was told to change parties was my stand on the lot merger issue. I fail to understand how merging lots could be considered part of any Democratic agenda. I think lot merger is a simple case of injustice. Those who favor merging lots may even recognize its injustice, yet think that cutting down on the number of building sites is so important some injustice is ok.

There have been far worse injustices. When two German soldiers were killed by Italian partisans during WWII, fifty of the most prominent residents of my Italian Grandfather's home village were chosen arbitrarily, lined up and shot, including some cousins of mine. Just because merging lots is not nearly that serious, we still should not have allowed it to happen. Let's have zero tolerance for injustice.