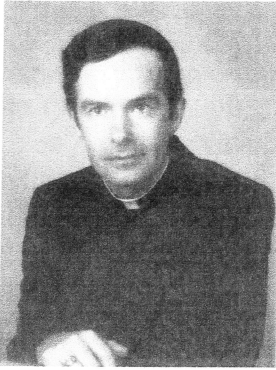


Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



"Look at the ships also; though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs." (Jas. 3:4) One hundred fifty-three years ago, our ancestors, subsequent to the 1860 election, perceived the US ship of

state to have run aground and be sinking into a morass of perversion, the result of being diverted from the course charted by the Founding Fathers in the *Declaration of Independence* and *Constitution*. A decade following WWII, the stories of ten ordinary men who lived under fascism were told in a book by Milton Mayer entitled *They Thought They Were Free*. Today, most Americans think they are free. Within prescribed perimeters, they may roam about the deck of the USS America. But, who really controls the rudder and the course of the ship?

A poll recently taken in my congressional district presented a microcosmic view of what a growing percentage of citizens think; America is sailing in the wrong direction. Consider the following circumstances. We have elections every two years, but little changes. Running for a national office requires a massive sum of money. Those who provide the funds determine which candidates can successfully run. Consequently, the electorate goes to the polls to vote in a free election, but the options available have been predetermined. Various news media, through both print and broadcasts, present carefully edited scripts which conform to the material fed to them from a small number of private wire services. The mind can only process one thought at a time. Movies and sports provide amusing diversions, distracting attention away from the serious issues of which we should all be cognizant. The explosion of welfare and proliferation of credit cards keep increasing numbers of citizens dependent on government and indebted to banks. Capitalism is an economic system that rewards each according to their individual capabilities, encourages initiative, and promotes equality of opportunity. Socialism replaces equality of opportunity with the dictation of equality of

results, demoralizing one's initiative and penalizing one's capabilities. Even if we avoid personal debt, the public debt voraciously devours more of our wages. In 1913, Congress ceded its constitutional authority over monetary policy to the Federal Reserve, a system of private banks. In the same year, the Internal Revenue was established. The Federal Reserve loans money to the government, the government borrows and spends freely, and the bankers collect escalating amounts of interest from taxpayers like shearers fleecing sheep. Megalithic international corporations, many bigger than some small nations, and interlocking boards of directors exercise tremendous influence over demographics pertaining to government programs and the economy as well as people's personal finances, places of residence, tastes and priorities, values and beliefs through propaganda-filled advertising, precision marketing, and job control. Parents no longer possess a dominant influence over how their children are reared or an awareness of how they are being assimilated into a culture that is foreign to our fathers. Increasing numbers of children spend time in nurseries while both parents must work to support the family. The world's influence through technology begins at an early age. When enrolled in public schools, their young teachers are unable to transfer tradition and culture from one generation to another and the distinction between education and indoctrination is becoming blurred. The educational philosophies of higher education are influenced by donors to schools' endowment funds. Steeped in those philosophies, graduates from such schools as education, journalism, and law are sent out to disseminate what they have been taught. Political correctness (censorship) is proscribing freedom of speech and thought. Instead of being taught the process of how to think critically and independently to arrive at rational conclusions in the quest for truth, Americans are being told what to think with the lie and hyperbole being fabricated after the fact to prop up preconceived notions. Through direct elections or our elected representatives, legislation is enacted reflecting the will of the people. Yet, by what has become the dictatorship of the judiciary, an elite minority that answers to nobody is subverting the will of the majority and saying what is law.

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Begun in the 1960's, rewriting of the law has transformed the face of immigration and assimilation into the image of invasion and occupation by those with values and aspirations alien to America.

The struggle between preservation of individual freedom and the incursion of big government is still with us. The terrain of the battlefield and the strategies of the conflict have changed. America in the mid-19th century was divided politically and geographically. America at the beginning of the 21st century is divided philosophically and spiritually. We are engaged in contentious competition not just for government offices or territory in America, but for the very minds and souls of Americans. Ultimately, "...we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Eph. 6:12) This is the location and epicenter of the motivating inspiration, driving force, and mounting strength of those with which we strive. (To be continued...)

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