

## Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



In early 1941, Japan and the US began talks regarding the escalating tension between the two nations. Tojo, a militarist, became Japan's premier and the US froze Japanese funds and stopped the sale of material to Japan that could be used for war. Japan's antagonistic attitude remained unabated,

focused on the destruction of the US Pacific fleet. The Japanese strategy was to lull the US government with continued talks until Japan was ready to launch a surprise strike. By late November, a Japanese carrier task force sailed toward Pearl Harbor while talks were still in progress. At 9AM on December 6, FDR sent a message to the Japanese emperor imploring him to join the US in finding "ways of dispelling the dark clouds" gathering for war. On the same day, Japan instructed their negotiators in Washington to meet with Secretary of State Hull on December 7 at 1PM. While the Japanese negotiators were engaged in this meeting under the guise of restoring harmony in Japanese-US relations, Japan attacked at Pearl Harbor. While the US talked, Japan acted and the charade of talks was painfully revealed.

History has repeated itself. While the US talks with militant Moslems, especially Iranian and "Palestinian" officials, gives them our tax dollars in foreign aid, and promotes the failed policy of land for peace, Iran continues to develop their nuclear facilities. While Russia amassed its military forces around the Ukraine's borders, US and European NATO politicians made speeches and diplomats held talks. As China out-maneuvers the US military in the Pacific and commercially around the world, we seek dialogue with them. As Peter, Paul, and Mary used to sing, "When will they ever learn?"

From the founding of our republic, conflicting philosophies of government and social order between Federalists and Anti-federalists provoked years of discussion and debate before culminating in the WBTS which the North aggressively pursued. After action replaced talk, a Confederate soldier was asked by a Yankee invader why he fought. He answered, "Because you are here." Today, while

those who identify with the South try to explain and educate the general public about who we are, the true history of the WBTS, and what our flags and monuments represent, our reputations are being attacked, constitutional rights threatened, monuments and graves desecrated. If we were to ask a liberal why they still fight against us, they would surely answer, "Because you are here." They are committed to eradicating all things southern, conservative, and Christian from the American landscape.

Christ said, "The kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed..., it is the smallest of all seeds, ...when it has grown it is the greatest...and becomes a tree..." (Matt. 13:31) He also said, "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, you will know them by their fruits." (Matt. 7:19) The bodies of our Confederate ancestors were buried as seeds are planted, the ground watered by the spilling of their blood. We are the new growth, trees intended to bear good fruit, rooted in the same culture, traditions, values, beliefs, and faith. Their blood flows in our veins and through our limbs. Frederick II, ruler of Prussia in the 17th century, understood the importance of acting over mere talk. He said, "My people and I have come to an agreement that satisfies us both. They are to say what they please, and I am to do what I please." Liberals do not mind if we only talk about our convictions. They do not want us to apply them to the circumstances of life. St. James wrote that we are to "...be doers of the word, and not hearers only..." (Jas. 1:22) No matter how much reasonable persuasion or threatening blustering one engages in, talk that is not followed by action or the promised certainty of action is fruitless. As the old adage states, "Action speaks louder than words." Those Jews who survived the Holocaust vowed, "Never again." We, the descendants of those who endured the Holocaust of the WBTS, must also vow, "Never again."

The world will always have bullies, from the school yard to the workplace to the national and international arena. Justice and peace are secured through strength. Weakness or the perception of it invites provocation. It is the blood in the water for sharks and the prey for the predator. We must not only know our duty, but do our duty by putting our knowledge, intentions, and convictions into practice by voting, electing capable officials, promoting the enactment of needed legislation, filing law suits, and when required, matching "...eye for eye, tooth for tooth..." (Ex. 21:24) to defend our positions and rights. For Christ said, "If you know these things (what your duties are), blessed are you if you do them." (Jn. 13:17)

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