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LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Lies and fear

A caravan of 1,000 families travels 2,000 miles in harsh conditions to the U.S.—their “promised land.” A president who told 7,546 lies in his first 700 days in office says that they are the worst of criminals and are bringing diseases.

ICE sends them scurrying for safety, children in hand, by launching tear gas to cause fear about going to a point of entry. Our leader sets up roadblocks to slow down those being processed as asylum seekers to a trickle. He warps due process by telling immigration judges that they are no longer to count certain things as grounds for asylum. We separate children from their parents as yet another message to those who might follow. Children wait without parents in chain-linked cages—hatcheries for PTSD. To show we mean business, we illegally send thousands of soldiers to keep even one of these evil invaders from getting through. Two small children no longer pose threats to our national security.

Now think on these things but instead imagine each one of those invaders, including the children, as blonde-haired and blue-eyed. Do you think it is entirely possible that lying behind all of Trump’s lies about these desperados is the fear of our white majority about the browning of America?

Ralph Slater
Chico

Part with illusions

It is difficult to fathom, but acerbic little old Judge Judy, whose “earnings” add up to an incredible \$47 million per year, actually works only 52 days and is recompensed to the tune of \$900,000 for each one of her half-hour episodes. This represents but one egregious example of many thousands within the realm of our faux democracy but capitalist system, which we have no choice but to accept and tolerate, because it has been allowed to develop beyond the control of the highly touted notion of “We the People.”

Instead, in this bi-polar two-party system of ours, we obediently follow instructions to hate our neighbors unless they agree with us, which renders the so-called commonwealth severely

divided and ripe to be conquered and plundered by the elite and their minions. Irrefutable evidence exists all around us, but it does require opening eyes and parting with illusions.

Greetings and a happy new year to all!

Joe Bahlke
Red Bluff

U.S. in peril

President Ronald Reagan’s speech writer, Peggy Noonan, embraced the importance of character when occupying the Oval Office: “In a president, character is everything. A president doesn’t have to be brilliant or clever, you can hire clever, and you can buy policy wonks, but you can’t buy courage and decency, you can’t rent a strong moral sense.”

The government is run by dignity and efficiency. Right now efficiency is collapsing: The last of the “babysitters,” Gen. James Mattis, is leaving; ill-advised and poorly contrived tariffs have pushed the stock market into a free-fall; the announced withdrawal of American troops from Syria has prompted Turkey’s president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to begin amassing troops on the Syrian border in preparation for an all-out assault on the Kurds, critical allies in America’s war on terrorism; the government is in a shutdown due to the president’s temper tantrum over a vanity project.

As presidential historian and renowned author Jon Meacham recently said, “Trump’s character is not commensurate with the challenges of the office.” We have always expected our presidents to conduct themselves with dignity. Trump has chosen instead ignominy as his character. American values are being compromised and the destiny of our country is in peril.

Roger S. Beadle
Chico

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