

Hopeful Signs Things Might Pick Up

After watching with some apprehension the tumultuous inauguration of Donald Trump to his second term as president, many questions came to mind. The first was, 'will any of these promises and proclamations go anywhere, or will they prove to be as politically platitudinous as those characterizing the departing Biden bunch?' One thing's certain, the country has huge problems empty promises won't solve.

My daughter finally got up the courage to drive down from Fargo, after three week ends of weather too slippery to risk driving down. I asked her whether she saw any signs the new administration might actually keep some of its promises.

With no hesitation, she pointed out President Trump's visits to Ashland N. C. The president chose to go there his very first full day in office and hear from the people devastated by that evil hurricane that decided to take its death and destruction inland.

Both Ashland and Swananoa had been ignored by FEMA. That region has gone over 100 days with help coming only from a few ministries like Franklin Graham's "Samaritan's Purse."

I watched that visit on TV and noticed Trump said very little, but he patiently listened to horror story after horror story from those people whose whole valley, towns and all, had been swept away. What I heard in Trump's brief replay was that he wanted to make such recovery something to be handled by the states, with the Federal Gov.'s part being the supplying of the disaster relief money the states requested.

That sounded good to me, because I still remember how long it took FEMA to get around to coming to North Dakota after the horrendous flood of '97. That

agency seems to employ many who spend their time at their desks like too many bureaucrats, passing the buck.

The Corps of Engineers is a little quicker in showing up, but not much. I did appreciate the way the National Guard pitched in. They were “there for us.” with muscle and smiling good will to help out.

We also watched Trump’s visit that same day to Pacific Palisades, and again he patiently listened to a number of heart-wrenching accounts from victims of those fires. Trump simply said he would do his best to get the wheels of recovery in motion. I found his idea that it would be better to find a genius too guide the recovery instead of a committee. I think he instilled the folks of both disaster areas with real hope.

Another thing that impressed me about Trump’s first few days was the quality of the people he has installed in his cabinet. His press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, is truly impressive. She is a bright, beautiful lady who does her homework and answers questions honestly and clearly. I detected little sign of her, stone walling. Furthermore she’s firm, not allowing herself to be badgered by glowering questioners more bent on insinuation than gathering facts.

Also impressive is Trump’s head of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem. She too is articulate, believable, and fiercely dedicated to keeping America, secure. She donned a flack jacket and accompanied the agents rounding up some of the hardened gangsters, drug pushers, and rapists already infesting our cities.

Noem too, like her boss, Tom Homan, radiated fierce dedication to her dangerous new job. I felt renewed hope Wahpeton just might remain safe.

I wonder why the left is having fits over these essential first steps in making America safe. I hope it’s not too late. God only knows how many terrorists have infiltrated the millions of illegals who were allowed to invade our nation.