11th KZGN News Talking Points Editorial

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

By: Tom Wiknich

Today’s topic: Upcoming state of the union & state of California speeches

First, here are some Facebook comments we received on the KZGN News Discussion Group:

Stacy Anthony wrote on December 30th, “Help please,

While at taco bell my son left his blood glucose meter….with a number to call if anyone found it. 760-977-0131.”

We at KZGN immediately recognized how important this item is and ran the same day with a news story to try and help find it for them. This is what a community station does. As of now, we don’t know if is the item has been recovered, so I thought I’d just include it on the editorial segment. We will try and help people and organizations as much as we can.

Over on the Indian Wells Valley discussion forum on Facebook, there has been a spirited debate about the water crises in the valley. As this is a very important issue for everyone in the valley, KZGN will be following this closely. This topic will soon be a program item on Ridgecrest Talk. We’ll let everyone know when we get that set up.

Now on to today’s topic: Upcoming state of the union & state of California speeches

Are any of you really looking forward to either of these speeches? I know I’m not. A speech is defined as the act of expressing or describing thoughts, feelings, or perceptions by the articulation of words. Did you notice the definition says nothing about providing factual thoughts, feelings, or information, just expressing them?

That almost sounds like giving an opinion or an editorial comment. Just like what I’m doing right now.

What frustrates me the most about these speeches is they are usually a skewed presentation of the facts by the speaker. Often, comments are presented as factual and they are just the opposite. If you’re like me and many other people, we take what is said in these speeches as suspect to verification later. The President will give a long speech stating problems as he sees them, and what he plans on doing about the problem. Quite often, he tries to convince us he’s trying to fix a problem, but the other side won’t let him, and he’s never to blame. It’s always the other guy’s fault that nothing is getting done. Right after the president gives his speech, the opposing side has their time to counter what has been said in the first speech. So, now we have both sides.

They both blame each other for the problems. Both sides have generally provided their party’s line on an issue.

Maybe what we need is a public debate versus one-sided speeches. Can you just imagine this? Instead of annual state of the union speeches, have an annual debate between the 2 sides. The President sitting at one table, and the other side sits at another table. The president states a problem and a suggested solution. Then, the other side gets to respond to the same problem and propose their own suggested solution. Then, maybe a little back and forth discussion would happen. There would be the opportunity for both sides to challenge each other with the facts as presented. The pros and cons of the solutions could be evaluated too and vice versa. This would require both sides to be open and public with their ideas and plans. Then we, the people, would have a better understanding of the issues. This would stop the misrepresentations of facts we often hear in one-sided speeches, where the speaker is never challenged and won’t take any questions. This process would let us see how they think. I believe we would, for the first time ever, get to see these elected officials in their real persona. I know I am personally exhausted with all the blame throwing back and forth. We have no idea what really goes on behind the closed doors in Washington. We only learn what they want us to learn.

Having a required by law annual debate would force some of the backroom politics to come out into the open. Annual State of the Union speeches really provide no real information, just the White House’s side of what’s going on.

In conclusion, State of the Union speeches provide no real use. They are a political position, one sided, and to me, a total waste of time. Will I watch this month’s State of the Union speech? Well, if I wasn’t doing these regular editorials and need to know what is being said by the parties, I don’t think I’d watch.

Tell me what you think about this editorial or any other topic you’d like me to discuss! Whether you agree with me or not, I’d like to read your comments. I encourage your email comments. I may read some email comments on my next editorial. Please email them to info@kzgn.net.

This has been a KZGN Talking Points Editorial seen right here on KZGN TV on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Until next time, I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what I think!