31st KZGN News Talking Points Editorial

The topic of today’s editorial is: Should we change the face on the $20 bill?

Andrew Jackson is currently on the $20 bill.

When I first heard about this on the news, I thought it was a joke. I now see that this is not a joke and that someone is really trying to push this. So, I started wondering where an idea like this comes from. Are some people so bored that they sit around just thinking of ways to change things? I also wondered, what was wrong with things the way they are? I also wondered as to actually who gets to decide this issue? Who makes the final decision?

It turns out the actual desire is to replace Jackson with a woman’s face. The goal is to have it changed by 2020. My problem is the process.

Who decided the list of people to be put on the bill? There is a website where people can vote. Is this web site strong enough to stop people of doing multiple votes? I’ve seen some website vote service that was easily hacked up by a program that uses one computer, but automatically keeps voting over and over. I fear a small group of people just sitting around trying to change things. It turns out that the treasury secretary has the authority to change our currency. By default, this person ultimately works for the President, so he also can influence the decision. Congress has no authority in this, except, I suppose they could pass a new law establishing rules for making these historic changes.

I’m not against putting a woman’s face on the bill at all. What I’m concerned about are future changes. If one person has the authority to change, what really is a historic document, and is part of our history, what about in the future? What if some nut started a movement to put Charles Manson’s face on a bill, and the “one” person that had the authority to make the change, agreed? Would we then have to put up with that? Or how about Mickey Mouse? Now I know these are wild examples, and not likely to happen, but ask yourself, “what if?”

What if President Obama wanted his face on it? Could he just order the treasury secretary to make the change? What if the person decided to put a symbol on the currency instead of a face? We’ve all seen the bald eagle and other historical symbols used on currency. What if the one authoritative person decided to put a Christian cross on the currency? How far do you think that would go now a days? How about a picture of an old Model T? And what’s wrong with the way it has been for over 100 years?

I guess at my age, I don’t like making changes to our historical documents. Again, my sentiments are not against using a woman’s face on currency.

After all, when a new coin was designed and issued in recent years, a woman’s face was used. I had absolutely no problem with that. But it was a new currency and was not changing our history. I guess, in the long run, this change will get done, and I’ll just have to get over it, which I will.

It just seems that there are always people out there wanting to change things that have been sacred for hundreds of years. Holy cow, I just sounded like my father years ago, when he was complaining about how my generation was just trying to change things his generation took for granted and did not want changed. But I’ll go this far in my support of the idea. How about we get rid of this web voting idea? It can easily be rigged. I don’t trust it. Let’s put it on the next presidential election for all the people to vote on it, not just the ones with internet and computer skills. On the 2016 election have 2 questions on the ballot: 1.  Do you approve changing the face on the $20 bill?  Yes or no. 2.  If the face was changed, pick one of the 5 choices below as your selection for the new face: Then have 5 choices.

In conclusion, again, this editorial is not that I object to putting a woman’s face on something. I’m just concerned about the process, and that ultimately “one” person has that authority. I don’t like that one person has this authority. Congress should write a law changing that. Let’s let the citizens decide through a bonafide election, not just a group behind a movement, but a true cross section of Americans. Yes, I want a voice. I want to vote.

I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what I think. If you have any comments about this editorial, or would like to discuss or recommend a topic, I’d like to hear from you. Please email them to info@kzgn.net.