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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Are we Minnesota-ready?

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 We must stay vigilant, even in Vermont, and be prepared
3 to collectively step up in the face of oppression, injustice, and
4 atrocity

####END SUBHED####

5 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

6 I'VE HEARD resistance actions described as "Fifty Shades
7 of Gray-Hair Resisting." Another term I've heard is "grand-tifa."

8 While we gray hairs are not the only ones stepping up in
9 resistance to the actions of the Epstein-deniers running the federal
10 government, we are making a good show of ourselves as we fill

11 the streets protesting what were, until recently, unimaginable
12 actions of our government against its own people.

13 This most recent nationwide protest was an act of
14 resistance. It was also an act of celebration: Celebration of being
15 together. Celebration that democracy is something we are not
16 ready to let go of.

17 And celebration that we are not ready to roll over for
18 those of the Epstein class who feel their money can buy them
19 anything, from underage girls, to elections, to an obliviousness of
20 the history of how elites fare when the distance between the
21 have-nots and the have-yachts grows too disparate.

22 When I'm asked if it matters to go out to rallies like No
23 Kings, to hold signs, and to march in solidarity, I contend that,
24 indeed, it does. Big time.

25 * * *

26 ONE THING I can say about all elected officials: They
27 know how to count.

28 Coming out in increasingly greater numbers makes a
29 difference to get elected officials and the media to pay attention
30 and witness the actions of the Epstein class running this
31 government. The world needs to see that they don't really
32 represent the majority, and this is not who we are.

33 We are about preserving democracy, and it is worth our
34 time to show up. Democracy is about sharing power and self-
35 governing, about having a government that can at least attempt to
36 create equality by leveling the playing field. Democracy is
37 exactly what the current administration in Washington, D.C. is
38 not interested in.

39 Our actions can be effective. We have seen what
40 happened in Minnesota, when the people rose up en masse to
41 stand together, non-violently, against the obscenity of armed,
42 masked hordes invading their state and against the ultimate
43 killing of several unarmed people.

44 Eventually, federal immigration officials retreated, and
45 Kristi Noem was replaced as the leader of the Department of
46 Homeland Security, which orchestrated the violence.

47 * * *

48 BUT WE MUST stay vigilant, even in Vermont, as we saw
49 Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) show up in South
50 Burlington a few weeks ago.

51 We would do well to be Minnesota-ready — to meet the
52 standard that we saw in Minneapolis for collectively stepping up
53 in the face of oppression, injustice, and atrocity.

54 That would mean more than showing up in large
55 numbers daily.

56 We would need people to run carpools to drive the
57 brown and black children of farm workers to school because
58 their parents were being cautious about being in public and
59 becoming targets of ICE.

60 Neighbors would need to shop for those staying inside so
61 as not to become targets of ICE.

62 And, in the most horrible scenario, we would need to
63 step in to help someone being assaulted by ICE — like Alex
64 Pretti, even though he paid for it with his life.

65 So are we Minnesota-ready to unite, work together and
66 persevere resolutely should the Epstein class running the federal
67 government decide to target our brave little state?

68 Are we ready to show up at the polls if the current
69 president's private army shows up at voting places to intimidate
70 voters? Or try to — literally — steal ballots?

71 What if the president decides that invading Vermont
72 would divert the headlines from the Epstein reality?

73 I'd like to believe we are Minnesota-ready.

74 But I hope we don't have to find out.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

75 **MIKE MROWICKI** represents the Windham-4 district
76 (Putney, Dummerston, and Westminster) in the state Legislature
77 and is a longtime Putney resident. (He notes that he writes from a
78 white perspective, cognizant that this country has in our history
79 attempted genocide of the First Nations peoples here, and that
80 Jim Crow actions against people of color continue right into
81 present day.)

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

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####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

83

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

84

####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

85

####END LOGLINE####