

War and Filibusters

by Bob Bird

Definition of mixed emotions: watching your worst enemy drive off a cliff in your new Cadillac.

That certainly describes me on this April morn where we see that 1) the Republicans have gutted the Senate filibuster rule (BAD), approved Neil Gorsuch to the supreme court (probably GOOD), and Donald Trump has unleashed an unconstitutional war against Syria (VERY BAD).

If you are a super-patriot cheerleader for all-things-military, we are not going to agree in this essay. Dropping missiles and bombs on any country that is not a threat to us violates Aquinian Just War Theory, natural law, the advice of George Washington's Farewell Address, Quincy Adams' similar warnings, and a little thing called the U.S. Constitution.

It can also be argued against in other ways, as in look who is cheerleading this action: The Globalists. The silence from the Democratic Party is also noteworthy. These are not Trump's friends.

And from an assessment of mere policy, it is downright stupid. The Syrian government denies the action, the incident smells an awful lot like the battleship *Maine* fiasco of 1898, and looks more like an effort to provoke Russia.

Trump has succumbed to the Ring of Power. The Constitution he swore to defend has been gang raped by many of his predecessors in the Oval Office, and he has just joined the dog-pile. In the meantime, we are all in the nuclear cross-hairs for the first time since the Cold War. If you are feeling warm and fuzzy right now with a glass of red wine, I am not.

Then we've got Neil Gorsuch on the supreme court. Both parties need to take the blame for the gutting of one of the finest tools ever invented to check power, the Senate filibuster rule. Created to protect small states from being beaten up by large legislative majorities, it has been continually mitigated since 1917. As with the passage of the 17th amendment, this move reduces the Senate as a bulwark of states' rights against federal steamroller tactics, and makes it --- like the House of Representatives was intended --- a pander to the vagaries of public opinion.

Having public opinion represented in the Congress is not a bad thing. But the Upper House was meant to be filtered from such pressures, and be responsible to state legislatures. The system was not perfect. But it is now infinitely less so.

And, the idiotic claims of the Democratic Party that Gorsuch was “out of the mainstream” ought to have been allowed to play out with a bed-wetting filibuster. The only thing from which he was out of the mainstream was the Democratic Party.

Personally, I can think of no finer action than paralyzing the federal government for an indefinite period! The Democrats, who made political hay whenever Republicans put The Beast on hold, would have eventually succumbed to their constituents’ demands for the larger pie of federal pork and gravy, supreme court be damned.

And we all know what this fight was about: federally-mandated abortion on demand. That is the Crown Jewel of the Left, and is in the most precarious position since *Roe v Wade* in 1973.

No party holds power forever. Someday, the Democrats will control the Senate. We have seen their proclivity, with the cooperation of the courtier press, to smash, bash and crash the limits placed on government power. Now, the Republicans have demonstrated, for the umpteenth time, that they are the “Me, too!” party, care about constitutional constraints only when it makes political hay, and with some notable exceptions, deserve the contempt of all liberty-minded citizens.