

Loyalty

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Loyalty is most often considered to be a positive trait. Being loyal to the family, the school, and even the market at which you shop is one of the traits that binds a community together, providing security and support.

Recently, however, we've seen the ugly side of loyalty. When Speaker of the House McCarthy was removed, the rest of the Republicans, whether in office or not, generally decried the act as one disloyal to the Party. Years earlier, we had a President who valued loyalty very highly. If a person, particularly an appointee or a political ally, was determined to be disloyal, that person was dismissed. Dismissal of an appointee meant loss of a job. Dismissal of a political ally meant the loss of support from the President and, at times, even political opposition by the President in future elections.

Loyalty, however, seen in only these two dimensions, is an incomplete picture of the dynamics. Loyalty, by the very nature of the word, implies a recipient. In the family, we are expected to be loyal to our parents and siblings. In the situation of the Speaker's removal, and that of the President, the loyalty was not simply expected, but demanded. In the case of the Speaker, the loyalty that was demanded was to the Party. In the case of the President, the loyalty that was demanded was to the man.

In our Republic, the loyalty of the politicians is designed to be given to the Philosophy of Freedom as embodied in the Constitution. That is both the expectation and the right of the people.

I won't get into the specifics of how each incident of loyalty may have been either proper or misplaced. I don't have all the information. What is clear, however, is that a prioritized loyalty to the Constitution is lacking throughout both Parties and both the recent and current Administrations.