

Government should protect kids, not expose them to perversion



Thursday, Nov. 13

Good morning! If you're reading this, you survived the government shutdown. Congrats!

If you're curious about what I've been up to the last week or so, it's business as usual. Here is what I mean by that:

*One Iowa high school was going to require "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" for freshman English.

*Another Iowa high school had to postpone its drama performance because administration needed to make sure the content was appropriate.

*A 13-year-old girl checked out an extremely sexually explicit book from a public library.

Sadly, business as usual.

Who are the targets (perhaps you could call them victims) in these situations? Kids.

And what do all three situations have in common in terms of the setting — government.

*Government school.

*Government school.

*Government library.

All three are funded by taxpayers. All three are funded by parents. Parents who should be able to trust the government.

Yet there is story after story after story...after story....after story where that just simply isn't the case.

And conservative parents whose concerns are routinely dismissed almost always have little choice but to continue as customers with the same government school or government library that doesn't give a rip about their sincerely held beliefs or the values they're trying to instill to their children.

In the case of the library, parents are told the library is not expected to act in place of the parents. It is the parents' responsibility to know what children check out.

Well, the problem is parents should also be able to trust the government will not provide their children with extremely sexually explicit content. If the government wants to make extremely sexually explicit content available to adults, then it should be a responsibility of the government to make sure that sexually explicit content doesn't end up in the hands of children.

I mean, when a grocery store decides to sell alcohol, it is a responsibility of the grocery store to make sure it doesn't provide alcohol to someone underage. Same with a gas station that decides to sell cigarettes. Same with a magazine store that decides to offer adult magazines. Same with a movie theater that shows R-rated movies.

Shouldn't the government be at least just as responsible as a privately owned business — if not a little more?

Often you'll hear people defend such books as "well, they're in the adult section." But then you find out there is nothing to keep children out of the adult section. And that children with a library card have full access to all materials in the library.

Imagine going out to eat and requesting to eat in the non-smoking section only to find out that there is a non-smoking section but smokers are allowed to smoke inside of it.

It's clear that one side of the political battles is willing to use government — schools, libraries, etc. — to further its agenda.

We have to wake up to that reality as conservatives. And, if we're not willing to use it to further our own agenda, then we'd better figure out ways to put up guardrails to prevent them from using the systems to further their agenda.

When I hear from disappointed parent after disappointed parent after disappointed parent as it relates to how the government cares — or doesn't care — about protecting their children, it makes me think of The Declaration of Independence.

“Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...”

How much longer will parents put up with this sort of trash being made available to children in schools and libraries? Will parents just continue to consent to the demise of their own children? How bad does it have to get before parents rise up and say, “Enough!?”

Again — these parents are the taxpayers funding the schools. These parents are the taxpayers funding the libraries. And, I believe it is worth pointing out that the problems seem to only go one way.

Parents should be able to trust the government they fund will not provide sexually explicit material to their children. And a responsible government shouldn't want to provide sexually explicit material to children.

Yet it does. It's time to take a step back and ask the obvious question — why.

The media has it wrong. This issue isn't about books; it's about trust. The government's most basic function is to protect its citizens. The government should partner with parents to protect a child's innocence instead of working to pervert them. Parents should not have to fight the very institutions they fund to keep their children safe.

Leaders, educators and citizens must remember protecting innocence isn't censorship — it's responsibility. And a shared responsibility at that.

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