

# soul 2021

Walter Cronkite. It was before my time but it seems there once was a time Walter Cronkite could take a break from anchoring the nightly news. Fly to Vietnam. Meet with the troops, talk with the generals, sit with the bodies. Then return home to America and to his anchor desk and tell the nation the war has lost its way and is not redeemable. The deaths are without merit. That we've now reached the point where the war's values no longer reflect the soul of our nation. And with that, American popular support for the war came to an end.

Today it is the Republican Party that has lost its way. Time and again they've proven themselves incapable of holding accountable the leaders from within their ranks of the January 6 plot to overthrow our democracy.

They intentionally politicized Covid. What could have been, should have been, less than one hundred thousand American deaths is now well on its way to a million more than that, all because Republicans saw votes in politicizing a pandemic. So many empty chairs at so many dinner tables. Sorry, but (insert strongest swear word you are comfortable with) Them.

And now Republicans want to remove Equality from our children's American history classes, and demand the firing of any teacher caught acknowledging the inequalities too many Americans still face. For 245 years it has been our drive to be ever better at holding open the doors of opportunity and equally for all that has held us together as a nation and earned us leadership among the world's nations. The Republican Party is seeking to censor Equality from our children's history books to win the votes of racism. It's time we all see clearly Republican values no longer reflect the soul of our nation.

Every day it becomes ever clearer that the Republican Party has become our generation's Vietnam War. The question is, how do you build consensus when there is no Walter Cronkite capable of reaching all of America all at once? This time it's going to take a group effort, and here is where I look at you.

As a Cook, as someone who every day shows love, and kindness, and caring, you've earned respect from those around you. Propaganda had much to do with America's initial support of the Vietnam War, just as it grips those still supporting the Republican Party. Propaganda-based beliefs are not easily overcome. Like Cronkite you have earned trust. Like him, the trust you've earned gives you the ability to challenge the propaganda in the lives of those around you. The time has come to use your voice.

Our next election, 11.8.22, is now closer than our last one. Last time we came together and got it right, but since then it seems we've lost focus while the Republican side bangs its drum of white anger ever louder. The president, his cabinet, Democrats in Congress along with a dozen or so brave Republican colleagues are now working diligently and intelligently to overcome the problems of our past and position the American economy for the future. They are in need of our vocal support and they are in need of it now.

From our democracy, to our health, to the very soul of our nation, so much that is so incredibly important is at risk of being washed forever away. Those leading the Republican Party offer nothing other than continued tax-free living for those who already have billions, ever greater fossil fuel consumption, and their oh-so-clever chants of Let's Go Brandon. With our silence this has been all they've needed to open up a ten-point lead in the polls. It's time to be done with silence. It's time for some honesty.

In this box of Seasonings there is the living proof of the richness of our American soul. Despite what Republicans want to demand of our schools, America has never been about just one people living just one way. Our diversity is our strength, our tastiness, too. Open these jars, sprinkle them on the food you cook and then share what you cook with those around you. With dinner comes conversation. Now and again in the coming months please bring the conversation back to Equality and of the danger in what the Republican Party has become.

It's December 2021 in America and it's time for us to wake up to the reality that the soul of our nation is facing its greatest risk of our lifetimes. This time we can't wait for someone else to save it. This time it's up to us. You are trusted. People will listen to you. This matters.

And that's the way it is,

Bill



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