EDITORIAL BARBARIANS AND LEGISLATURE BRINGS MEMORIES

The 46th Legislative Session is starting, and brings memories of what I have experienced in the past. In passing bills which help with funding and other good legislation, I feel some legislators neglect to address other important Issues.

In watching the History channel on cable Channel 44 (Santa Fe) The Barbarians. There are some cultures and individuals are referred to as barbaric, such as the Huns, Mongols, Vikings and Goths. Individuals such as Erick the Red, Attila the Hun, Adolf Hitler, Stalin, and now Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussen just to name a few. All are considered agents of social and political change.

The graphic depictions on TV showed the killing of helpless men, women, children and even animals. Showing the victims with slashes and arrow all over their bodies, it makes me think of how our ancestors both Indian and Spanish settlers, must have suffered during the 1680 Pueblo Revolt (MASSACRE). Over 1000 Spanish men, women, children, including 21 Franciscan priests and many Indians who would not join with the leader Pope and his Capitan's. Historians have written about Pope becoming a tyrant to his own people.

One report states:

Cpt. Diego Lucero de Godoy lost thirty- two members of his family. Tome Dominguez de Mendoza reported losing thirty-eight members of his family including daughters, son-in-laws, grandchildren, etc. One of Tome's daughters, Francisca, wife of Captain Francisco de Anaya, was found by two Indians who later testified that they came across her naked body, head crushed, with a lance thrust into it emerging from the throat and a child at her feet as though aborted.

Yes the Apaches and Navajos allied with the Pueblo Indians to drive the Spanish down to El Paso which was still Nuevo Mexico. Why did the Apaches and Navajos ally with the Pueblo Indians? Was it because they were getting rid of the only defence the Pueblos had against the Apaches and Navajos? Pope required the Pueblos to get rid of all which was European: the horses, cows, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, wheat fields, orchards, vegetables introduced by the Spanish. I would imagine the carretas (wheeled) also. With no control over the Apaches and Navajos who didn't give up their horse, the Pueblos began to experience worse attacks then before the coming of the Spanish. This is probably why, according to what Joe Sando, Indian from Jemez Pueblo, wrote in his book Pueblo Profiles (Chapter "After The Revolt") only three years after the revolt, the new leader Luis Tupatu from Picris Pueblo sent emissaries Juan Punsilli of Picuris down to El Paso to ask the Spanish to return as long as the Pueblos would not be punished for the revolt. The Spanish didn't return until twelve years later, under Don Diego DeVargas. It is believed that during the absences of the Spanish, many of the Pueblo communities were destroyed by the Apaches and Navajos.

There were investigations conducted by the new Governor DeVargas. Testimony was taken from the previous survivors of the revolt. The descriptions of the horrors which took place are no different then visually presented in the TV Special The Barbarians.

My feeling is that we be sensitive to each other. We share in religion, culture, blood and as New Mexicans, most of all we are not responsible for our ancestors sins.

An amendment has been introduced twice at different Legislative Sessions to amend the original bill which puts a statue of Pope in Washington DC, only to be tabled (killed in committee). The Amendment called for electing an honorable New Mexican preferable an American Indian. In our eyes Pope falls far from being the right one.

Senator Rod Adair said it best in a response to Robert Rodriguez of the New Mexican Hispanic Culture Preservation League, regarding his support on the Amendment to the Bill.

Mr. Rodriguez:

I have said all this and more. The matter is not for an Anglo from Roswell to push forward. If all the Hispanics from Albuquerque and Santa Fe and Taos and Rio Arriba County who have contacted me over the past four years on this had any influence at all on their own Hispanic legislators then something could be done. Unfortunately, I will be blunt here, NONE OF YOU HAVE ANY INFLUENCE AT ALL ON YOUR LEGISLATORS! Therefore ignorance and political correctness has triumphed. The Hispanic Cultural Center and all those interested in it, have no stroke. That is the plain, unadulterated, unvarnished truth. You might as well give it up."

Sincerely, Rod Adair

In conclusion why are we not concerned, about our Hispano Democrats and a few Indian leaders sending a Statue of Pope the leader of the 1680 Pueblo Revolt (The St. Lawrence Day Massacre) to represent all New Mexicans and New Mexico in The Statuary Hall in Washington D.C. (Pope statue belongs at San Juan Pueblo).

The attitude I experienced when lobbing the legislators, was expressed by one legislator he said "So we screwed up."

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