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May 27, 2023

Editor

Rivereast News Bulletin

P.O. Box 73

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To The Editor:

Donald Trump has taught his disciples an important technique: never admit the lie; treat your audience like idiots, repeating it until they stop arguing. People like Sam Prentice took this to heart. In three previous letters (details at http://letters.sauyet.com/#/pages/democracy), I have corrected his "not a democracy, but a republic" falsehood. But he repeats it again.

He shares the familiar Benjamin Franklin story, conveniently ignoring the question asked: "Doctor, what have we got? A republic or a monarchy?", which gives context for "A Republic, if you can keep it." That's the point. Webster's definition of *republic* is, "a government having a chief of state who is not a monarch and who in modern times is usually a president." So, yes, we're a republic.

Webster's definition of *democracy*: "a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections." So guess what? We're a democracy too. If Mr. Prentice wants to deny that we're also a representative democracy, he really needs to explain why the definition doesn't apply.

That "democracy" doesn't appear in the Constitution means no more than the fact that "republican" is used only regarding the states. As much as Sam Prentice wants to deny it, the constitution requires interpretation. If he wants to stick to textualism, how would he rebut the contention that the Supreme Court has no authority to strike down Connecticut gun laws. After all, there is no reference to judicial review in the Constitution. There's no enumerated power to strike down federal laws, let alone state ones.

Nothing else in his fanciful letter – or in Ed Kozlowski's perpetual nonsense – is worth rebutting, except to note that Mr. Prentice has clearly not read the actual Mueller report.

Sincerely,

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