



# The Due Process Advocate

*"No Person shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty, or property without the due process of law"  
- Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution*

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## COULD IT BE THAT ALL THREE BRANCHES OF OUR GOVERNMENT SEE POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE AND IDEOLOGY AS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN ELIMINATING SOCIAL INJUSTICE - AND INEQUALITY - IN AMERICA?

Theoretically, the violent reactions to the death of George Floyd should have been extremely unlikely, if not impossible, given our constitutionally-constructed system of so-called "checks and balances" in our government. After all, our democratic ideals and constitutional, due-process protections of "life, liberty and property" would certainly not have allowed the perpetuation of inequality and social injustice that was exemplified by the death of George Floyd at the hands of a police officer.

So why do these types of unnecessary deaths keep happening?

Perhaps the many, recent protests across the country (taking place in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic) are proof-positive that the ugly truth can no longer be ignored; that the due process protections of "life, liberty, and property" - much less a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people" - are no longer primary objectives of our government.

Google sums it up like this: "Without a system to prevent one branch of government from having more power over another, the government would be controlled by one group of people. It would not be fair to the people of the United States if one branch had more power over another..."

I guess Google thinks that all of the three branches of our government are keeping a close watch on each other to make sure their counterparts are properly operating within their respective scopes of responsibility and authority.

Hopefully, the recent protests have exposed the stark reality about the current status of America. Simply put, it is this:

### POLITICAL POWER AND CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT IS THE TOP PRIORITY.

Serving the masses of people is, at best, a secondary priority. The so-called "checks and balances" are not checking or balancing anything in the midst of today's political battleground where the political gladiators see survival of the country as secondary to their own survival in the political arena. The current checks and balances are useless in draining the swamp. The swamp is bigger, deeper, and more dangerous than ever before.

You may be surprised to learn that the U.S. Constitution does not even mention political parties! Political factions (Federalists and Anti-Federalists) had disputes over the ratification of the Constitution. After George Washington left office in 1796, he warned against political parties.

*"Educate yourself. Don't wait for somebody else to tell you who's who. Educate yourself and know who you're voting for."*

*- June 1, 2020 by Terrence Floyd while visiting the place where his brother, George Floyd, was killed.*



Nevertheless, as soon as Washington left office, political parties became a permanent part of government in America.

It is surprising that anyone wonders why political survival is so important. Members of Congress, for example, are paid so well that it becomes very easy to understand why they spend so much time, energy, effort, and money campaigning to get elected and stay in the political arena.

How much money?

Try a \$174,000 base salary (well over \$3000 per week) “for most Senators, Representatives, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico” to start. “The only exceptions include the Speaker of the House (salary of \$223,500) and the President pro tempore of the Senate and the majority and minority leaders in the House and Senate (salary of \$193,400).” Then, consider the value of “The Members’ Representational Allowance (MRA)” for “Supporting Personnel, Office Expenses, Travel to the District, and Mail for Members of the House.” In 2017, MRA was an average of \$1,315,523 per year for each Member of the House (well over \$25,000 per week). The Senate? They get a better deal: “The Senators’ Official Personnel and Office Expense Account (SOPOEA)” for “Supporting Personnel, Office Expenses, and Mail for U.S. Senators” averages (are you ready for this?) \$3,467,971 per year, or an average of almost \$67,000 per week.

But don’t take my word for these numbers and other benefits I didn’t even mention. Please take the time to read Ida Brudnick’s report entitled, “Congressional Salaries and Allowances: In Brief” (from which the above information is quoted) and you be the judge!

<https://www.senate.gov/CRSPubs/9c14ec69-c4e4-4bd8-8953-f73daa1640e4.pdf>

Maybe Congress could be paying a little more attention to the tragic plight of those like George Floyd and spend more time actually doing something about it. Instead, the same old rhetoric that’s been bantered about since the Civil War is heard over and over and over again: “I’m going to help drain the swamp and make sure every single person can experience the American dream...”

I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again: Since the beginning of time, there has not been one single empire that that has not collapsed under the weight of it’s own “power and corruption.” History says America is headed toward the same fate if we don’t smarten up really quick.

The peaceful protesters have done their job really well. Now I hope our government can wake up and do theirs before it’s just too late.



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Email Ed Smith: [ehsportal@gmail.com](mailto:ehsportal@gmail.com)

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