



Up Front

America's on tilt so why am I smiling?
By C.J. Hadley

The title that my printer slapped on the shipping cases of our recent book was “Pants for Real People.” The real title is “Quinlan & Jones.” Vess and Bill were amused by that strange reach because their book covers “[t]he humor, history and hallucinations of the philosopher and the jarhead. Old cowboys and their western ponderings.” And on a recent day our local Post Office in Carson City, Nev., wrapped our Business Reply Mail neatly in a *RANGE* charge sheet, and it turned out to be mail intended for “Back Yard Poultry.”

You can't make this stuff up. Have we lost our way or is someone sending me a message? Speaking of messages, my sister-in-law in England is happy that Trump lost. She was looking for a president “who will bring back a sense of quietness and honesty to the United States.” Or perhaps she's listening to the BBC, which even 50 percent of Brits claim is fake news. (The BBC and CNN have a huge reach worldwide and the pity is they both make stuff up.) And my sister in Australia took her family for a lovely picnic at a pretty lake in New South Wales just before the election to toast Joe Biden's success. She is an atheist so no praying was involved but she did offer applause for Dominion voting machines and a corrupt cabal.

After 30 years with *RANGE*, I was feeling better about the future of family ranching in the American West, thanks mostly to an administration that loved America and Americans, slashed regulations, cut taxes, increased jobs and wages, and used common sense. That party seems to be over.

Speaking of parties, today is January 7, Serbian Christmas, and son-of-a-Basque-shepherd and Nevada casino magnate John Ascuaga's birthday, but I doubt this day will be remembered for those sweet celebrations. Last night, a crazed mob breached the barricades at the U.S. Capitol, overwhelming Capitol Police and trashing parts of that beautiful building. Four people died while legislators working in Congress on Electoral College certification were

scurried in gas masks through tunnels to safety. Deeply disturbing and a national disgrace, these actions were instantly vilified and our “leaders” say that anyone caught for this vandalism and terrorism on January 6 “will be held to account and could spend 10 years in federal prison.”

It's a pity that vandalism and terrorism during 2020 was mostly ignored. You might remember the destruction of Minneapolis, Portland, Seattle, Kenosha and other blue cities. Progressive politicians and mainstream media claimed those crazed mobs were “mostly peaceful,” “fighting for social justice” or “sharing their grievances.” Members of the Biden campaign even provided bail funds for violent Antifa anarchists.

Unequal justice is a chasm that will be tough to breach. As a registered Democrat, my heart aches. Miranda Devine wrote in the *New York Post* on January 7: “The storming of the U.S. Capitol yesterday by a group of fired-up Trump supporters was a tragedy for the Republican party, for conservatives and populist nationalists, and for Donald Trump and his legacy. It has bestowed the great gift of the moral high ground on the most undeserving people in the world: Joe Biden and the left. They now have a free pass to persecute their ideological enemies while enacting their pet cultural Marxist projects and changing this country irrevocably for the worst.”

Ned Ryun, founder of American Majority tweeted the same day: “Trump didn't cause division, folks. He exposed the absolute corrupt and rigged system of D.C. which reacted very strongly to the threat to it. Trump has red pillled tens of millions of Americans to truly see how gross our system has become. They're not going away.” And political analyst Lisa Boothe added: “The bulk of the media actively treats 74 million Americans with disdain. They report unfairly about them, belittle them, and don't even bother listening to their concerns. That leads to great division. The left, they don't want unity. They want full power. And they just got it. Buckle up.”

We claim we are a nation of laws, not men, and that real debate is needed, not autocratic control. With the new leaders the West will change so we have to work harder to help change it for the better. Outside forces seem to be hoping that *RANGE* will also change for the better and perhaps merchandise “Pants for Real People” and “Back Yard Poultry.”

Maybe that job will be easier. ■