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THE WAR OF THE WORDS (PART II)

"He who controls the language, controls the masses." (SAUL ALINSKY)

Due to the Covid pandemic, the director of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has taken on a very public role. Never before has its leader had such a dominant role - and understandably so. On Friday, April 23, the head of the CDC, Rochelle P. Walensky, again addressed the pandemic. During her remarks, she commented on women who were pregnant.

What was startling & unbelievable to me was at least twice, she did not use the normal term, 'pregnant women.' Instead, she once said 'pregnant *persons*' and once, 'pregnant *people*.' This did not happen by chance. Rather, this was a carefully orchestrated, pre-planned choice of words attempting to erase the natural distinction between males and females.

Yet this is where the radical leadership in our country is pushing us - all of us. A real 'War of the Words' has erupted. Extremists have already gained a foothold in this conflict. We are being told what words are now acceptable and which are not. Instead of saying 'illegal alien' we are told to say 'undocumented non-citizen.' Instead of the two camps of 'pro-life' and 'pro-abortion,' our opponents insist on using the term 'pro-choice.' After all, Americans believe in free choice!

WORDS AND THOUGHTS

Words express our thoughts. We don't think about that much; we simply take it for granted. First, we think something then we give expression to our thoughts by speaking. The poet, Robert Frost, wrote: "The thought finds the words." However, and maybe you've never considered this, the opposite is true. The meaning of words and the lack of certain words can change our thinking. Here we turn to George Orwell's classic book '1984.' (If you've never read this famous novel, I strongly encourage you to do so. It is especially relevant to contemporary events.) Orwell describes a totalitarian government of the fictional country, *Oceania*, which seeks to control every aspect of society. It has its own language 'Newspeak' and even invented a new crime called 'thoughtcrime.'

The following is quoted from Pieter Vree's insightful article: "*Control the language, Control the masses.*" As you read this, please keep in mind the generations that will follow us and how greatly they are affected in the present and will be in the future, by the media, our public school system, our colleges & universities and social networking. Vree writes:

"But when words are controlled – suppressed, eliminated, replaced for others...The words help form the thoughts...these descriptors (words) have helped form public opinion on...topics of high controversy. The totalitarian government of Oceania, in order to rein in dissent and advance its peculiar form of socialism, pared down the English language...The whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought. In the end, we shall make thoughtcrime literally impossible, because there will be no words to express it."

What is thoughtcrime in Orwell's '1984?' Vree describes it: "*Thoughtcrime is any idea at variance with the creed of the ruling party – an idea that need not be acted upon or even given expression in order to be considered a crime. Control the speech, control the thought and the masses are made malleable for Big Brother's purposes.*"

FINAL WORD

I think you get the picture. We could go on-and-on. Not only is the veracity of our language at stake but even our very thinking. Imagine that! There are sinister elements now at work in the United States that wish to limit free speech *and* control our minds. This is not an overstatement, an exaggeration, or political fanaticism. I urge you to 'speak your piece.' Yes, be kind and judicious with your words. Jesus commands us to walk in love. But stand your ground! God is with us!