

A Discourse on Sequestration

- Dan Rosenberg

A disconcerting and relatively recent theme in political discourse has been the idea of holding the American people hostage. It's something that has become commonplace for both parties to do: if there is a law that is distasteful to the Democrats, or to the Republicans, they end up basically threatening the future of the American people. We see this right now, with the sequestration crisis; we saw it a couple of months ago, when America seemed poised to go off the fiscal cliff; and we saw it even before then, when the Senate was trying to raise the debt ceiling.

The reason this should be such a worry for the American people is because we are the ones who have elected these representatives into office. They are meant to protect our interests, and pass laws that will help us. However it seems that the interests of the American people have become merely bargaining chips, played when in order to block partisan laws from passing. Instead of being helped, it seems we are being held hostage. It appears that politicians have adopted the mindset that if they go down, they're bringing the country down with them. It's not okay. The whole purpose of elected officials is to establish stability for their constituents. Using us as bargaining chips is just the opposite of that.

Of course, the easiest way to fix this problem is to change political discourse away from the ideas of each party, and back to the needs of the people. The focus of our political machine needs to be less upon the fights in Washington, and more on the conflicts at home: the single mother struggling to support her kids, the family with a father in Iraq. That's the real foundation of America, not the senators and congressmen, not the president and his cabinet, rather the average man. The one who struggles and fights for his place in America. And he shouldn't be held hostage by his government; he should be cherished, protected, and guided. America was founded upon the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It's time politics returns to those roots, and upholds the natural rights of man instead of tearing them down.