

ANTI-WAR ACTIVIST EXERCISES HER “FIRST AMENDMENT” WHILE “STANDING IN SOLIDARITY”

By Don Feder

Watching an interview with a protestor at the September 15 anti-war demonstration in DC took me back to my youth – when totalitarian thugs posing as idealistic youth made foreign policy decisions in the streets.

On Saturday, FOX News interviewed a young woman who took part in a “die-in” to protest the Iraq War. (Sadly, no one died there.) The interview reflected the mindless-set of today’s left – its elitist arrogance, passion for substituting slogans for arguments and almost comical inarticulateness – all of which it has in common with its ‘60s counterpart.

“What are you doing here?” (not an existential question), the reporter asked a young woman dying for attention.

From her horizontal position – and oblivious to the irony of the situation -- she explained: “I’m here standing in solidarity with the American people. We are the majority who do not stand with the president or Congress.”

And how does she know that she stands in solidarity with (or even in close proximity to) “the American people”? Opinion surveys? ESP? We’ll come to that directly.

The reporter then asked her what the troops were doing in Iraq. Answer: “They are fighting against nothing. (*Al Qaeda is a myth? Islamo-fascism is an invention of the military-industrial complex?*) They’re fighting for nothing. They’re dying for nothing.”

In line with the notorious MoveOn.org ad, the interviewer asked if she thought General Petraeus was a traitor. “General Petraeus is a coward,” Polly Parrot squawked. “General Petraeus speaks for no one except those who want to make money -- the oil-mongers. He’s not our general. We are our general.” The last actually isn’t as dumb as it sounds. We’ll return to this point as well.

The stuff about “money” and “oil-mongers” is standard Marxist theory: A capitalist state goes to war to exact profits, steal resources or create new markets (see V.I. Lenin, “Imperialism: the Highest Stage of Capitalism”). As Jane Fonda explained to another interviewer during the Vietnam era, we were in Southeast Asia to get “their *tongue* and *tingstin*” (tin and tungsten). Now, we’re in the Middle East for their oil or camels or sand or something.

Then came déjà vu all over again. All of this had happened before, the protestor confided. She’d read about it in her history book (written by some eminent revisionist historian, like Howard Zinn, not doubt).

“Back 30 – 40 – years ago, when Nixon – Lyndon B. Johnson – was president, and we were in Vietnam. And that’s why I’m here exercising my (sic) First Amendment.” Did her “First Amendment” get enough of a workout on Saturday, or does it need more time on the Lifecycle?

Not far from the Capitol where our protestor staged her symbolic death stands a memorial to 58,000 Americans who died (not symbolically) in the war she cited. They died so that Ms. Protest could exercise her First Amendment, and all of the other rights enumerated in the Constitution.

There is no memorial in our nation's capitol to the several hundred thousand Vietnamese or the 2 million to 3 million Cambodians who died (again, not symbolically) as a direct result of the triumph of that earlier anti-war movement – a movement of leftists with placards which facilitated mass murder by a movement of leftists with guns.

What the media (Fox included) won't tell you, is that Saturday's march and similar demonstrations were run by Marxists (which is not to say that everyone who opposes our involvement in Iraq is of the left – some are ill-informed, others illogical).

Saturday's shindig was orchestrated by A.N.S.W.E.R. (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism). Besides giving aid and comfort to Al Qaeda, A.N.S.W.E.R. also favors Fidel, accuses Israel of apartheid and explains: "We fight hard for a better life right now, but we know that nothing is secure... as long as capitalism exists." So, A.N.S.W.E.R.'s answer is isolationism, anti-Americanism and socialism – a platform guaranteed to appeal to Middle America (here defined as stretching from Nantucket to Manhattan's Upper East Side and San Francisco to Sedona).

As *The New York Times* reported on September 16, speakers at a pre-march pep rally "included familiar political and antiwar activists, among them Cindy Sheehan (*on her latest farewell tour*), Ralph Nader and Ramsey Clark."

Clark is the Johnnie Cochran of the nihilist left. Nader – a babble-head on auto-pilot – thinks the real danger to America isn't jihadists with bombs or mullahs with nukes, but that most cunning of terrorist conspiracies – the Fortune 500. ("Our beloved country is being taken over by large multinational commercial powers.")
GM Akbar?

Sheehan calls George Bush the “world’s biggest terrorist,” believes the holy warriors who killed her son in Iraq are “freedom fighters” (she blames Casey’s death on Bush and the “neo-cons”) says Osama bin Laden was “allegedly” behind 9/11 and wants Israel to “get out of Palestine.” Susan Estrich, whose liberal credentials are impeccable, calls Sheehan “a raging, ignorant, anti-Semite.”

In another reprise of 30 or 40 years ago, A.N.S.W.E.R. and its allies have taken to the streets to seize what they can’t win at the polls or in the court of public opinion.

Brian Becker, A.N.S.W.E.R. national coordinator, promised massive civil disobedience at the latest DC demonstration. Ultimately, there were 190 arrests for leaping over police barriers – somewhat less than massive.

Adam Kokesh, co-chair of Iraq Veterans Against the War (give him a rich widow and some national exposure, and he’ll be running for president in 30 years), explained that civil disobedience is necessary because “asking, pleading, begging for change (*otherwise known as educating, supporting candidates and running for office – i.e., democracy*) is not sufficient.” Saturday’s demonstration was intended to send a message to officeholders that “if you do not take our demands seriously (*accede to them immediately and unconditionally*), we will be in the streets, we will be shutting down the machine.”

Well, there they go again.

The left won its Vietnam War not at the ballot box, but on the asphalt (with a little help from Watergate). In her book, “The Death Of The Grown-Up: How America’s Arrested Development Is Bringing Down Western Civilization” Diana West reminds us: “At no point in 1969 did any Gallup poll show public support for

Nixon's conduct of the war slip below 44% -- at which point opposition stood at 26%. Even at the height of huge public demonstrations in the fall, 58% of the public supported the president, with 32% opposed."

A September 8 CBS News/*New York Times* poll showed 30% supported removing all troops from Iraq, while 35% favored a reduction in U.S. forces (without a timetable) – a far cry from bring-the-troops-home-now.

That's why Hillary Clinton (who feigns a somewhat nuanced approach here), not Dennis Kucinich, is ahead in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, and why Ron Paul – the reincarnation of Charles Lindbergh – is polling in the low single numbers in his quest for the GOP nomination. All of the other Republicans oppose withdrawal.

So, how can the protestor interviewed on FOX claim to be standing in solidarity with the American people? Basically, in the same way that the Chinese communists call their party dictatorship the *People's Republic of China*.

That's what being the vanguard of the proletariat is all about. The left has always maintained that the people are too stupid to know where their true interests lie ("false class-consciousness" in Marxist jargon).

Fortunately, the vanguard is there to save the masses from themselves. Because the latter are incapable of understanding what they really want, the former can truly say it represents them – even when it doesn't represent them. Is that clear?

However, there are a few things the ignorant masses do understand which have escaped the notice of the enlightened elite.

- That those fighting U.S. forces in Iraq are animated by the same murderous rage masquerading as a religion as the 9/11 frequent-flyers, the Hamas artillery brigade and the Iranian Atomic Energy Commission.
- That they don't hate us because we're in Iraq, in Afghanistan, support Israel, etc. They hate us because they hate us.
- That both Iraq and America are far better off with Saddam Hussein resting in peace than Saddam Hussein sitting Baghdad.
- That wherever their current location, Saddam most certainly had weapons of mass destruction. It's amusing to listen to the left sputter: But Saddam couldn't possibly have been in league with Al Qaeda – he's a secularist and they're religious fundamentalists. This is like saying: Stalin couldn't possibly have formed a pact with Hitler in 1939 – Uncle Joe was a communist, while Der Fuhrer was a Nazi.

Like the '60s protest movement, the current anti-war crusade is less a rebellion than a temper tantrum by spoiled adolescents who were/are brainwashed by their professors and want to get that self-righteous glow of moral superiority by confronting the supposedly corrupt system established by their elders.

West explains that the so-called youth rebellion of the '60s had its roots in the adult abdication of the '50s. The Baby-boomers who came of age between 1965 and 1972 had too much affluence and too little discipline. They were pampered and coddled by a generation that should have known better.

Almost from childhood, Boomer brats were taught that the world and everything in it revolved around them – that they were an oh-so-special generation with finely tuned moral antenna and the courage to confront hypocrisy and injustice.

The result was pacifists pelting cops with nail-studded golf balls, advocates of participatory democracy overturning election results, scholars trashing administration buildings and urinating on research papers, and humanitarians consigning generations of Vietnamese and Cambodians to totalitarian darkness and launching a million boat people.

Which brings us back to the protestor FOX interviewed. When she said of Petraeus: “He’s not our general. We are our general,” she did not mean: “We’re West Pointers. We have chests full of medals and ribbons. We’ll lead the troops in the next war.”

She was saying, subconsciously: We are our own parents. (“The old man” is slang for both the commanding officer and your father.)

She was also saying: We create our own reality – an alternate universe where America (a beacon to humanity) is a monster, those who cut off the heads of hostages, seriously debate the merits of female circumcision and believe democracy is satanic pose no danger to civilization and protestors barely out of diaper-rash (with a historical consciousness rivaling their attention spans) become the repositories of wisdom.

And now the little protest piggies are threatening to stage a revolution in the streets – to “shut the machine down.” Doubtful. This anti-war movement doesn’t have the draft to help it. The big Vietnam War demonstrations ended in 1971, when Nixon called off the Selective Service System.

Each of this year's DC marches has been smaller than the last. An estimated 9,000 participated on the 15th. The police – who had to help Code Pink grannies over the barricades -- barely had an opportunity to use their pepper spray. Drat!

We may not need the Ohio National Guard. But I sure do miss 'em.