



Up Front

Notes between new friends.

By C.J. Hadley

CJ: Having come from a family of ranchers who have survived for way over 100 years based on the principal of family helping family and neighbor helping neighbor, I have always enjoyed the stories of family ranchers and farmers overcoming all obstacles to enjoy a full rural lifestyle. I think I have read just about every issue of *RANGE* and the many books you have published, and still have every one of them.

However, after reading all the Republican nonsense in this last issue I give up. I can't believe that you and the Republican Party have been taken in by our last president. Trump is nothing more than a scam artist, hot-air clown. I had subscribed for two more years, but I am requesting my money back.

FRED S. SCOTT, A ONCE-HAPPY SUBSCRIBER

Fred: As a fellow Democrat, I sincerely appreciate all the support you have shown me and RANGE over many decades and will sorely miss you. (My personal refund check is enclosed.)

How do you think Biden and Harris are doing so far? I can't figure them out.

Sincerely, C.J. Hadley, editor, RANGE

CJ: I think President Biden and Kamala Harris are trying to do the right thing for the majority of Americans who have been left out. I also think all of the minority people have been left out, starting with the Native Americans. If you read the Lewis and Clark journals you will see that only two people never got paid: a Negro and an Indian woman. That was just the start. I don't agree with radical militia groups trying to overrun the government either. I feel our democracy is threatened if we continue on the path the Republican Party wants to follow. We all have to follow our own beliefs.

FRED S. SCOTT

Fred: We will follow our own beliefs and the Bill of Rights should work for all. I'm just sad that you and I don't see the country the same way. I get relentless incoming emails—red, blue and other; I watch CNN, FOX, MSNBC and read bits of the New York Times, Washington Post and Epoch Times; and I find it incomprehensible how these outfits describe the same set of facts.

I was born in the most polluted coal/steel city in Europe during WWII. I coughed for my first 17 years and have damaged lungs, yet never smoked

a cigarette. Our family was rationed for five hundredweight of coal per year and England was always cold and damp. None of that was particularly hard because it was the same for everyone. Our schools were still bomb sites until I left in 1958. White privilege? Hardly. Racist? Never. Belief in God? Hell, yes!

When I was 15, my headmistress wrote to my parents, saying: "Caroline is uneducable. Please remove her from school." They sent me to typing school and sponsored a one-way ticket to Canada when I was 17 "to seek opportunity." It was a beautiful gift and it didn't take long for me to move from Canada to New York City.

I have been more than blessed in this country but now I believe we are "heading downhill like a snowball heading for hell," as Merle Haggard used to sing, which might be why I have become more strident. Since I moved to the high desert I no longer suffer from bronchitis and I discovered the greatest people on earth—ranchers, farmers, miners and loggers—all real producers who improve the world. I try to share their stories while attempting to mentally cuddle, warn and protect them via this magazine.

Take care of yourself, Fred. Hope to correspond with you again after the country stops printing Monopoly money, tosses off big government, and rediscovers liberty.

CJ

CJ: I think we are more alike than most. I was raised in a small mining town of about 20 families and 30 single men working at the mine, mill and sawmill. They were a diverse representation of all nationalities and everyone respected and had compassion for everyone regardless of their status. My dad was mine foreman.

We were raised to make our own choices and to support ourselves and the community. I have worked at mining, logging, and construction my whole life. I have been blessed with the same wife for 59 years, and one son who put himself through college, married and raised two children who both have college degrees as well. So I don't worry about my own family. However, I don't think most politicians have any interest in serving their country or constituents; most just try to enrich themselves at taxpayers' expense. Many folks are entitled by rich parents and just try to take advantage of people below them in status. Of course, there are also folks who think the world owes them a living. There are way too many corrupt people in politics and running many corporations. I don't expect to ever have a perfect world so we all should just do the best we can.

I truly respect the job you do in trying to represent the hardworking Americans out there. Keep up the good work you do, and I'm sure we will correspond in the future.

YOUR FRIEND, FRED