

MEMO FROM EMMETT MAYOR GORDON W. PETRIE

SUBJECT: A TIP OF THE HAT TO PAUL HARVEY OF BLESSED MEMORY

Most of the Greatest Generation, including a good chunk of Boomers, remember what noon-time meant for radio listeners in the sixties, seventies and eighties—Paul Harvey and his iconic r-r-r-e-e-s-s-t-of-the-story broadcasts. His honey-like mellifluous tones always resonated while eating lunch. In those days, “talk” radio wasn’t yelling, it was, well, simply talk: rational, reasoned and refreshing to the ear *and* mind.

In 1965, one of Harvey’s most famous broadcasts was entitled “If I Were the Devil.” A classic. It underscored the depth of his understanding of our society. I thought it should get a 21st century updating, claiming neither the prescience of Harvey nor anywhere near his prodigious talent; but I am a keen observer of human nature—not to mention I’ve read Saul Alinsky’s *Rules for Radicals*. Now remember, I’m *not* advocating for the devil! I’ve simply read Alinsky’s book. A modest theory on Satan’s methods:

If I were the Father of All Lies—the Great Adversary—I would ensure everyone was confused about their existence, where they come from, why they’re here and the reason for their life’s purpose. In fact, they would want to question the purpose of everything. While this would be a worldwide plan, my greatest prize would be the United States of America! Many of their so-called leaders have claimed their upstart country to be a shining light on a hill. Pish posh! I would make them the darkest of all.

If I were the Great Adversary, I would destroy the traditional family. The family will no longer be the building block of anything; instead, they become no stronger than a brick of mud and straw.

If I were the Great Adversary, the government would provide *all* education. Parents would have no voice in curriculum or teaching methods. Their children would learn a more inclusive, accepting world view—and not even Heaven can help them if they object to their children’s indoctrination of ideas not squaring with their own parochial, pedestrian, parental pedagogy. In time, not enough traditional and strong families will exist for school administrators to even worry about “parental” concerns. The real parent will be the government! Government bureaucrats will care for *everyone*, from cradle to grave.

If I were the Great Adversary, I would change *e pluribus unum*, “From many, one”, to *ex se, plurimos*, “From one, many”. No more will America be a melting pot! Indeed, if I were the Great Adversary, I would divide the United States to a level not seen since its Civil War. I would conjure up a binary kind of hate: you-either-agree-with-my-point-of-view-or-you-are-the-enemy kind of hating. If I were the Great Adversary, I would make sure the Legacy Media only supported one side of the argument because in my timing, it’s time to bring the Great American Experiment to an end. The state, not the individual, demands the most important rights. True freedom resides in the state, *not* individuals. Long live the state!

In fact, if I were the Great Adversary, I would pat myself on the back for doing a Helluva job!