Speaking Out of Both Sides of Your Mouth

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This 4th of July I attended an open door concert where my grandsons and other young music students were performing with their instructor’s band. The event was held in North Fort Worth, a predominately Hispanic community where I grew up and lived until 1984. North Fort Worth is a stronghold for Democrats. Thus, after the young aspiring musicians displayed their musical talents two Democrat politicians bidding for the newly formed 33rd congressional seat spoke to the large gathering of Hispanics. The politicians in question were Domingo Garcia, a former State Rep. from Dallas and Marc Veasey, a black, and State Rep from Fort Worth. Both men will face off on July 31 when voters from the 33rd congressional district will decided which of the two will represent them.

Before addressing the sizeable crowd, both politicians mingled with those in attendance. As I talked to many of my old neighborhood buddies, Mr. Garcia suddenly walked up to me. He extended his hand, which I shook, and he then told me he always read my columns when I wrote for years in the Dallas Morning News. I quickly told him I was already drafting a column about comments he made in the Fort Worth Star Telegram, which brought a smile to his face. He said, “tell the folks about me James,” and quickly left to get on the stage with Mr. Veasey. Though I don’t have a dog in this hunt (33rd congressional race), I nonetheless listened with some interest to their political comments. Though predictable, to me anyway, what both men would tell the crowd, Mr. Garcia quickly injected a blurb about Obama’s recent almost amnesty to 800,000 illegal aliens from Mexico and how he applauded the President’s actions. What puzzled me was Mr. Garcia’s comment about President Obama’s illegal immigrant mandate was that only a handful of the large mostly American Hispanic crowd applauded. Mr. Veasey’s comments in my humble opinion were more inspiring in that he pleaded with Hispanics to encourage their kids to stay in school and hopefully continued on to college. Other comments I found disingenuous by both men were when they told the crowd how they would work hard to bring jobs to the area. My friends, I was born and lived in that area for 47 years. In my 47 years living in North Fort Worth the biggest employers there were Swift & Co. and Armour’s, two huge meatpacking plants and other small meatpackers (Rosenthal and City Packing) where many Hispanics, blacks and whites worked. After these meatpackers closed Hispanics, whites and blacks who lived in North Side sought work elsewhere. Since then, I’ve yet to see large job creating companies like the packinghouses bring their businesses to the North Side. Thus, these two politicians promising jobs to the voters of the 33rd congressional district was political pandering fabrications.

As for Mr. Veasey encouraging Hispanics at the concert to stay in school, he has to take into account that black students also have a terrible record of staying in school. According to the Huffington Post, minority students dropped out at disproportionately higher rates than their white counterparts. In the last three years since 2009, 4.8% of blacks and 5.8% of Hispanics between 15 and 24 dropped out of grades 10-12, compared with 2.4% for white students. In a USA Report it stated that white high school graduates are more likely than black or Hispanic peers to enroll in college. The report stated that 47.3% of white high school graduates ages 18 to 24 attend college, vs. 41.1% of black and 35% of Hispanic high school graduates. The USA report further stated that among students who entered college since 1996, 36.4% of blacks and 42% of Hispanics earned a bachelor’s degree within six years, vs. 58% of whites and get this — 62.3% of Asian Americans! Before Mr. Veasey chides Hispanics on their kid’s dismal education stats, he should recognize the dismal stats of blacks as well.

In his comments to the Fort Worth Star Telegram, Mr. Garcia stated, “Fort Worth’s Stop Six, and Poly neighborhoods (heavy populated black areas) look like ghettos!” He further stated that politicians representing those neighborhoods are more worried about money for themselves than about their constituent’s best interests. Folks, seldom do I agree with a Democrat, but here I wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Garcia. Sadly, and unbeknown to Mr. Garcia, is that those aforementioned areas are now heavily populated by Hispanics, mostly from Mexico. Also unknown to Mr. Garcia, is that those once almost all black communities were once thriving robust business areas operated by black entrepreneurs. As a young man in the 50s I practically, due to racism, loved that area due to the black man’s music. Whites didn’t allow me in their clubs and Hispanics from other Hispanic neighborhoods would threaten me because I was from North Side. Thus, I hung out in the Poly area. Never, did blacks threaten me, asked me for a hand out or stole anything from my car. If I was hungry or needed gas, I’d stop at a black owned restaurant or gas station. However, in the 1960s, President Johnson with his Great Society Program tried to eradicate poverty by leveling the playing field with government freebees. My friends, within five years to this very day, as Mr. Garcia so stated, turned not only the Poly and Stop Six black areas in Fort Worth into ghettos, but other black and Hispanic communities throughout the United States as well. And after more than 50 years black and Hispanic communities in the United States are high crime rate areas and sadly those who live there are still as poor or poorer than ever before. All due in part to liberal Democrat government programs that Mr. Garcia and Mr. Veasey have championed

and will probably continue to support!