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Life, Liberty and what else was it again?

We all know the world is spinning on its axis hard and fast. Years ago we didn't have acid reflux acid -yes, reflux, no. We had free speech that cleared our throats. We even sang "the bombs bursting in air." The National Anthem, remember that?

What bothers me most is the apathy of the masses. People are beginning to rally but still many say "let's not talk politics." What else should we discuss? The high price of carrots, the funny thing my dog did, the movie I saw? We could trash movie stars or compare lip gloss, but I can't afford either so that brings me back to politics. While the middle class slips through the cracks, polar bears stand on one ice cube, people are losing their entire life savings and bounced out of their homes. . The unemployment rate is around 7.2 % and changes from day to day, but doesn't count millions of Americans who are underemployed or not receiving benefits.

Conversations rotate around hip replacements or arthritis, which brings me back to politics: the healthcare costs from hell...or should we call it hell-care? Retired people are concerned about the planet, but life is pretty secure, until they lose their pensions! The powers that be seem to want our tax money and our houses ...because we're slipping through the giant crack. What will they do with all those empty houses anyway? Guess the rich will remodel.

John Doe is the way to go though, no use trying to make changes, the problems are too big - or are we too small? Robert Kennedy said, "Few are willing to brave the disapproval of their fellows, the censure of their colleagues, the wrath of their society. Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet, it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change a world that yields most painfully to change."

Is it too scary to speak up? Friends say, "I don't want to get shot." Who does? A shot of tequila, shot of espresso maybe, but any other shots and I'm not interested. What's the upshot of that? Anyway, it's "one, two, three, what are we fighting for?" Maybe we really don't give a damn.(For those who don't know that's good ol' Country Joe.)

While people, animals and the earth are dying from starvation, war or struggle - we watch violent TV to entertain ourselves and take sleeping pills. Numbing ourselves from the world. Baby boomers want to retire, relax, pass the ball to the next generation. Or maybe they're still workin' 8 to 5 after 65? Many young people say "I just want to text and play video games." Some are active and concerned but often come from academic spheres or enough abundance to afford idealism.

Isn't it time to get off the couch? Huge portions of our population are lethargic, despairing or unaware. Back in the day we had rousing songs that talked about the " eve of destruction ", " bang -bang he shot me down" now popular songs are about Apple Bottom Jeans and boots with fur. What's up with that? "70% of the population is not organized, they are marginalized. The other 30% are either elected officials or they're campaigning for them." (From No Labels). In a recent journal it was also quoted that "people engaged in political activism are most likely to live happier and more fulfilling lives. So, we are not talking about violent confrontation, but organized civil dialogue in the interest of change. Otherwise, fear, frozen lives and victimization await us. We were conceived in "liberty and justice for all" and surely we still hold these truths to be self evident, so why not speak up?

Gasoline prices give me gas, living wages aren't livable. There is more to say but I'm running out of time and space, aren't we all.

Why are we sitting on our hairballs?