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Dissent is the highest form of patriotism history

Of Jim Matthews Through all our history as a nation, people have questioned the patriotism of others. Whenever a public or private citizen questions authority, another person or group often questions that person about his patriotism. So, what is patriotism? Based on a random house definition of patriotism, Dictionary.com says patriotism is love, support and defense of one's country. They often expose the display of the American flag as patriotism. We also believe that fighting in our armed forces is patriotic. Some believe that defending our president is patriotic. So is it patriotic to desecrate the American flag? Is it patriotic to refuse to serve in the army? Is it patriotic to oppose a president and his policies? Let's take a look at this quote, which is often attributed to Thomas Jefferson. The sources I consulted said that it is uncertain who wrote or uttered these words. However, they are powerful words: Dissent is the highest form of patriotism. There are various forms of this quote, all of which say essentially the same thing. This seems to say that acting contrary to the norm of our political system is at best patriotism. What have others said about patriotism? Benjamin Franklin wrote: It is the first responsibility of every citizen to question authority. So before we agree to serve in the army, before expressing support for a president or other government official, we must be willing to disagree. And I think this can take the form of an interrogation authority. Theodore Roosevelt tells us: Announcing that there must be no criticism of the president, or that we must stand by the president, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but morally dishonourable to the American people. These are pretty strong words from one of our presidents. He seems to be telling us that we must also question the authority of the President of the United States. I'm suggesting that dissent comes first in determining what we consider unfair or immoral. To disagree simply because we do not like a law because it disturbs us or we simply do not like it is not dissent that is useful. To disagree just to hurt someone else would seem unfair. Dissent suggests taking a position of principle to help others understand our point of view. So, how can dissent be? To protest peacefully through parades and demonstrations in public places seems to me to be dissenting. Expressing opinions publicly and privately seems to me to be a disagreement. Refusing to vote in a political contest that neither candidate meets the criteria set by the individual seems to me to be Anyone who has uttered or written the words attributed to Thomas Jefferson has directly linked dissent and patriotism. I think Benjamin Franklin and Theodore Roosevelt also implied connection. what what does that mean for us today? What I suggest for myself I suggest to everyone. When an office owner does well, let him know. This allows charge holders to know what's important to you. When I see something that I think is wrong, I must let the relevant authorities know. If they ignore me, I have to decide if it's important enough to protest against the actions. A good question to ask is whether an action violates any moral or ethical code. In that case, I must participate in actions organized to stop or change the behavior. An important point to remember is that those who believe I am wrong have a responsibility to act in dissent as much as I do. Jim Matthews is a longtime resident of Greenfield. You can share your comments to jem75@sbcglobal.net. Remember what people on the left were saying about questioning the policies of the occupant of the White House? Going back several years and ending only a few months ago, I seem to remember many people talking about how dissent is patriotic. After all, wasn't it The Holy Man Howard Zinn himself who declared dissent to be the highest form of patriotism? Even politicians like the current U.S. Secretary of State, sick and tired even though she was at the time, have come into action: Yet now, as in the fickle world of fashion, dissent is strictly outré – an unpleasant pastime for redneck losers angry with a birth certificate fetish. These days all chic politicians are doing what's best for the country and getting on board the Healthcare Express, at full speed. And just like another infamous vehicle from the recent past, the cabal he's driving is terrified that if they slow down, the whole effort will explode in his face. Hence the need to intimidate anyone who raises uncomfortable questions. Which brings us to the White House's recent request that citizens report any fishy health care emails they may have received. That is to say, please report on any fellow citizen who may have communicated electronically his doubts about the wisdom of the President's plan. This policy has been widely described as Orwellian as it should recall one of the totalitarian regimes of Eric Blair's 1984 novel. Based on my memory, however, I would have expected that Big Brother apparatuses would simply deny the existence of any dissent, while pervading any evidence along the infamous memory hole. A much closer and more real example of citizen whistleblowers sharing information about dissidents directly with the government comes from us from East Berlin and the old Ministerium für Staatssicherheit. Of course, the Obamaniks are rank amateurs to the old stasis professionals, but you can't help but feel a similar impulse. Simply put, the revolution (in health reform) is so important, it needs to be protected that would confuse the people with principles and facts that would make them doubt the virtues of the government's plan. And they always have a plan. It seems that the administration has already made some progress in this

area. Dan Hayes of Reason.TV managed to ferret one of these mongers of unpatriotic dissent. Once a respected film director and critic, associate editor Peter Suderman has been declared to the White House Communications Office as one of the most skilled of all opponents of the President's reform plan: And for dessert, savor the DNC's most recent announcement. If you can count how many times they use the word mafia in two minutes, you have more fingers than I do: an image shared on Facebook states that founding father Thomas Jefferson once said: Dissent is the highest form of patriotism. Verdict: False The expression does not appear anywhere in Jefferson's writings. Fact Check: The sayings are so often wrongly attributed to Jefferson that his estate in Monticello maintains a list of spurious quotes. (RELATED: Thomas Jefferson said: 'When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty?') A quick Google search reveals that this quote appears on that list - Monticello investigated it more than a decade ago, finding the words nowhere in the works collected by Jefferson. Its true origins are uncertain, but the saying may have entered popular culture during the Vietnam era, he writes on his website, to signify opposition to the war. In a 1969 speech at Columbia University, New York Mayor John Lindsay said, The fact is that this dissent is the highest form of patriotism. It's the peaceful American way of moving the nation away from a self-harm course. Variations of the citation date back to the early 1900s, according to research by etimologist Barry Popik. Many times the highest form of civic patriotism lies in criticizing your city for everything you're worth, you read in a variation that appeared in The Zanesville Signal in 1925. Follow David on Twitter Do you have a tip for fact check? Send ideas to . J. PHARAOH DOSS During the Bush administration, the battle cry of anti-war demonstrators was: Dissent is the highest form of patriotism. The citation has been attributed to Thomas Jefferson. In 2003, Senator Hillary Clinton greeted Jefferson's fervour by shouting, I'm sick of people saying that if you argue and disagree with this administration somehow you're not patriotic ... We are Americans and we have the right to debate and disagree with any administration. Now dissidents are being challenged against the new administration that has debated, disagreed and destroyed Hillary Clinton's presidential aspirations. There have been post-election, inaugural protests and indignation against executive orders, once again the protesters are with the highest form of patriotism. But is dissent really the highest form of patriotism? Dissent just means not agreeing. Now, disagreeing for reasons of party or personal dislike is the lowest form of dissent and has nothing to do with patriotism. Patriotism is: devoted love, support and defense of one's country. Dissidents emphasize their love for the country, but I will emphasize the defense. Thomas Jefferson understood the defense. He created a gunboat navy. Jefferson also understood dissent, but Jefferson would not understand this phrase attributed to him because he never said it. To continue enjoying our site, we ask you to confirm your identity as a human being. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Dissent is the highest form of patriotism. Howard Zinn It is a phrase that you will surely see mentioned in memes after memes during politically controversial times. Do a web search for the phrase Dissent is the highest form of patriotism along with the name Thomas Jefferson, and you'll find thousands of websites that will attribute the sentiment to the third president of the United States. However, you won't find the phrase in original documents or Thomas Jefferson's speeches. It is unlikely that he has ever written or uttered this sentence. Where does this quote come from? The problem is, notes Dave Forsmark, that Thomas Jefferson never said that. He has campaigned to correct what he believes to be blatant punishment. In 2005, he wrote, the quote is about two years old, not 200. It was made by historian Howard Zinn in an interview with TomPaine.com to justify his opposition to the war on terror. Someone mistakenly attributed the quote to Jefferson shortly afterwards, and now apparently everyone is doing it. Howard Zinn is a historian and author of A People's History of the United States. In an interview published on July 3, 2002, he was asked to comment on how dissent had been labeled unpatriotic by the Bush administration. He replied: While some think dissent is not patriotic, I would say dissent is the highest form of patriotism. Indeed, if patriotism means being faithful to the principles for which your country should stand, then the right to dissent is certainly one of these principles. And if we're exercising that right to dissent, it's a patriotic act. Information from the Thomas Jefferson Encyclopedia suggests that Howard Zinn was not even the originator of the sentence, but also mentions where he collected the phrase. The first use of the phrase we found is in a 1961 publication, The Use of Force in International Affairs: If what your country is doing seems practically and morally wrong to you, is dissent the highest form of patriotism? also that the phrase was in general use during the era of the Vietnam War protests. It was used in a New York speech Mayor John Lindsay at Columbia University, as reported by the New York Times on October 16, 1969. We cannot be satisfied with Washington's accusation that this peaceful protest is not patriotic ... The fact is that this dissent is the highest form of patriotism. At the time, Howard Zinn was a professor of political science at Boston University and active in civil rights movements and against the war of the 1960s. However, it is not known if he was the originator and was picked up by the other author and Lindsay, or was simply one who resonated with him. Zinn wrote a similar phrase in Declarations of Independence: Cross-Examining American Ideology published in 1991: If patriotism were defined, not as blind obedience to the government, nor as a cult submissive to flags and hymns, but rather as a love for one's country, its fellow citizens (worldwide), as loyalty to the principles of justice and democracy, then patriotism would require us to disobey our government , when he violated those principles. Of course, it's better to attribute the quote to something Zinn and John Lindsay said than to Jefferson. Jefferson.

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