

## THE STEPFORD PRINCIPLE

In 1972 Ira Levin wrote “The Stepford Wives” in which the women in the community were all replaced with docile robots programmed to make their husbands happy in every way.

Now, no one will argue that Congress is bent on making our lives happy, but they have become rather robotic. The question is “Who is writing the program?”

Pogo (1) gives us the answer: “We have met the enemy and he is us.”

Consider. We have made it a habit to try and elect the perfect person with the perfect education and the perfect career with the perfect marriage, the right suit, the best hair, the right wife, the most eloquent, and flawless.

In Stepford, the wives and children were replaced with robots which had been perfected to the desired specifications. In our selection of our candidates, are we trying to do the same?

Well, we are all flawed. Why would anyone think otherwise?

I said in one of my earlier essays that “Failure is the whetstone of success.” Candidates without some failure in their background defy understanding. How is it that a person can become so perfect and ostensibly successful without failure or mistakes? What is it in us that makes us believe that there are flawless people? At all? Anywhere? And why should never having had a problem qualify them to *solve* problems?

When considering whether you want a Stepford candidate or a real man as a representative, look at those who have been selected for their perfection and look at what that got us.

It is time to pull the plug on the pre-programmed candidate and start electing people who are people first and politicians second: People who are members of the community from which they came and not of that to which they aspire.

<sup>1</sup> Pogo. A character in a cartoon strip by Walt Kelly. The sentence is a play on words of the famous quote “We have met the enemy and they are ours.” Oliver Hazard Perry, 1813.