
From: Alan Cook <a robertcook59@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 11:24 AM
To: Haley, Nikki
Subject: the flag issue

Dear Governor Haley:

As an outsider looking in at your flag issue, it seems likely that yanking down the Confederate flag is only going to ignite the sparks of racism further in your State. The Confederate statues that are being tagged is a disgrace to the historical value they represent and that is not totally about racism. I am sure as a Canadian of some southern decent that the history of the south, as I know it, has a lot more to offer than just slavery. What about those in the North that kept slaves. Hell, we kept slaves in Halifax in Canada in the 1800's. They are not ripping down the British flag out there. Hopefully, we learned positive lessons by that bleak part of Canadian history.

The uneducated seem to forget that it is the good old British flag that spawned the roots of racism. Is it being yanked down all around the world? Are Queen Victoria's statues being tagged? Most of the original southerners are of British heritage as history seems to tell us. Why not blame the British and take all the Union Jacks down. Why, because there is more to British heritage than just slavery/racism.

The lessons the Confederate flag can teach the rest of the world is that it is a symbol of the south and a portion of that history is related to racism. That flag should be a reminder to all Americans and the world that this can never happen again.

Put all the statues and flags away and you will have many more nut bars like the one who killed the 9 people in church running around. Use the flag as a positive thing, make it a negative and it will further negative consequences. You have seen that already with the spray painting of the statues.

I don't deny my British or Southern Heritage because of the acts of the past. Am I proud of the way the British treated first Nations people in Canada by trying to make them into white people and destroying their culture. NO! Just am I am not equally proud of those in the south of British heritage who did the same to the Africans. I speak to it with my grade 7's and 8's in history so they can understand it, not bury it away to bubble up in disasters every now and then as it ahs in your State.

I hope the good people of the south keep the flag, but use it to teach the people of today and the future about the history of the south and the part it played in racism.

Sincerely

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