

2013, Jan 25

Friday Night Hard News Call

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Santa Fe, NM 87505
 - **phone contact** is via MariettaRobert: 317-773-0061
or by e-mail: stargatemarietta@gmail.com
 - Remember you can have a session with Mother, as well!

Hard News:

Rainbird: asks about Wikileaks

T: Rana Mu said Assange is poised to drop them in at the most timely, appropriate moment:

This IS NOT HARRY REID: THIS IS THE CRIMINAL COMPONENT IN THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE

R: someone today was making a joke about Harry Reid getting a visit from the Brinks truck and the Koch Bros: he is playing 5D inter dimensional chess, and the others are playing 3D checkers

- McConnell has lots of baggage; Glen Beck has gone off the crazy train completely, telling people to get their back packs and guns; D'Yanna said in her own family nieces and nephews are getting guns and stock piling weapons and food etc - this is in Idaho

R: there is a video game called "Tour of Duty"; if you play well enough, and get good scores, etc, you get a call as the results of these games are signalled to DARPA, C-A and so on - you have a job waiting for you!

T: the Limo Licence: "Taxation without Representation" - this has been the case for DC since the start

- 800 = 8 years in office; there is a Mayan symbol in the centre which = 13 [ie, 2013]; 002 = 2 terms! The message is coming through at every angle!

- As Richard Hoagland says Mr 19.5;
 - he is also an Aboriginal Moabite which is perfectly aligned to NESARA
 - Aboriginal Moabite Nation becomes a global story, as there will be no more borders when N is fully enacted.

Caller: talk about Bill Clinton's health: is he in the danger zone?

T: had a quadruple bypass, has to go in periodically to get an upgrade

Caller: Is Hillary having vision problems? Will she be losing her sight soon?

T: Not so sure: your 3rd eye can be wonked out if don't use it!

R: send these ones of Mother's unconditional love as what they are going through is not fun, especially at this time

Caller: this coming Sunday, are Hillary and BO joining forces to talk on **60 Minutes**?

T & R: know nothing: an interesting dance of cover-ups; they have nothing in common

R: Tom the RTC - nothing short of a revolution happening in DC - the cat [Mother] is out of the bag!

- If the world's economy is in dire straits, why is the NASDAQ up, the NYSE up and so on, and Max Keiser screaming as he is? There is fraud going on in the banking system!

T: reads parts of Obama's speech: We hold these truths to be self-evident

- also some of Laurence O'Donnell's comments about some of his borrowed language from his heroes: Lincoln, Jefferson, MLK

Caller: Eric Holder is doing his best to prevent *Judicial Watch* from getting the transcripts re Fast and Furious - do you know anything about this? The organization is using Freedom of Information to get the information - he is fighting the request.

T: he needs to be exposed BUT Hillary was behind all of it!

- Holder was going to step down, and then decided to stay: why?

Caller: if someone is in a Cabinet position, do they get immunity?

T: no - otherwise Hillary would have immunity!!!

- In 2009, she was supposed to step down from her Senate seat; she threatened life of Carolyn Kennedy for wanting the seat; went to Nancy Pelosi and got NP to swear her in the next day with Bill as witness - called treason

- We do not have to wait for anything: we have to do our part every day: call in and give them a piece of your mind! Call them on the carpet politely - we do not have to wait for Assange

T: Diane Feinstein is not a nice lady - she and Barbara Walters sit in the same seat - both on CFR - participated in 9/11

- Kerry is just as lascivious as them all: got in the coffin with Bush Jr at Yale and had sex with him; had sex with little kids and then had them killed

- Howard Dean - the same with the kids! Not pretty!
- Angelca Merkel will have to speak up - on the news today: Germany wants to purchase drones for their military; the German people are not happy: it's an ethical discussion. Yet this is a slimy thing: they will make up some kind of reason and thrust it down your throat!

Caller: whose side is B. Boxer on?

T: 100 % in the light. When people decided not to vote for things, it was for a reason.

- The piece from Thom Hartmann will show why the filibuster should not be there at all.

Caller: who is Obama choosing for Sec of Treasury? Answer: Jack Lew

T: this one is really smart, but when the banks are taken down, he'll come down too

- talking about some kind of bill about charging a fee for transactions
- To do a bet on a hedge fund, you have to have all kinds of money invested.
- The problem here: there is not gold behind any of this! No assets behind anything!

T: If the truth were told about the massive amount of blood on their hands - any amount of money in any of the big banks puts blood on your hands as well!

Caller: B of A gets \$240 / mo from him - and they trade with it

T: every time they do a hedge fund, make billions and billions of dollars and kids die!

- Why can't you get into a credit union and quit paying them?

Caller: already in a credit union; banks says still liable for credit

T: the more pressure people put on organizations, the better it is

- Even Thom Hartmann still not telling the full truth, due to gag order on Hillary
- this is about denial: all these ones praising Hillary to the high heavens: get a life! She is not clean

Caller: didn't Justice Dep't have something against her?

T: There are football fields of material against her.

- When is anyone going to talk about cloning operations? Has been going on since early 1900s
- Germans learned about it in the dark bases of the Satonians
- 2-3 days after his first inauguration, B O signed Exec Orders to reveal all secrets
- Gitmo is still open - not his fault

T: Cynthia McKenney asked them what happened to the \$3 billion

Caller: when the missile hit the Pentagon, all the Info on NESARA was there; it all disappeared when 9/11 hit the Pentagon - and the Pentagon has never been audited

T: every document was scanned by the Ashtar Command and nothing can be hidden - the AC is part of the military and has the authority to do this!

- The date that Steven Greer is going to do a long 5½ day press conference in May - will go back to the first conference and all the deep throats who spoke up then
- In 1999, a 96 year old man spoke up and told of not being able to speak of what he knew about extra terrestrials on the planet: could not tell wife, children, grand children, great grand children - **that's a 3 generational silence and lack of information!**

T: One of her kids is the incarnation of WED DeBois and he came in screaming: was mad at her for being his mother; he knew who he was and that he had been poisoned in his last life

- the European Central bank is nothing but an extension of the Nazi 3rd Reich; EU is the same
- Today, Japan starting to tighten their military operation over the islands; they have no desire to like anything that China is doing; it is supposedly over natural resources - oil and gas!

- Dr Keshe has a little black box that will work. We have a big job to do - this has never been about money -
- We have the Sat Vic consciousness which we read from Swami Purna's book, **The Truth Shall Set you Free**: the millenials are on the planet now: we are very behind the 8 ball for providing the kind of consciousness they need to survive on the planet.
- Stability is a primary requirement for evolution beyond [she starts reading but does not finish]

Caller2: the dates for Greer's press conference in May - **Ap 29 - May 5, 2013**
National Press Club, Washington DC - same location as in 1999

T: what is to be covered?

Caller2: **UFOs, our ET families and other universes! 30 hours of educating the public!**

- Media from all over the world will be present
- President of Russia has given BO an ultimatum: step up and say they are here, or we will

T: these guys are playing 3tiered inter dimensional chess; this is for the sake of those who don't know what's going on; this is for the Illuminati who don't want this to happen: means the end of the fossil fuel game!

Caller1: can't put the genie back in that bottle!

Caller2: they are toast! Once it's done, it's done!

T: brings up the fact that the radiation in Fukushima is so high that can't be registered!

- When snow melts, soil is radioactive; so is anything grown in that soil
- Why we need molecule water

Caller2: we'll have help

T: yes, **we already do:** Dr Greer, Dr Bassett, Mr Ion Diuk - putting the molecule water in St Laurence Seaway which will travel down the waterways and clean the Great Lakes and, yes, the Love Canal

- The entire Lake Erie has been dead for a long time: the poison Dioxin used in the apple orchards was dumped in the lake which died as a result, then people swim in it & don't know what happened
- the Chicago River has a delta in Lake Michigan - Chicago River empties into Ohio River which goes into Mississippi river which goes into the Gulf: one application of molecule water just keeps on going!
- Has heard they put it in the Gulf but just did not say anything: B O is their nemesis which is why Hillary has been trying to kill him - KOS sleeps with them, and there are guards all round to keep them alive!

T: There are certain contingencies of these groups that are going to be executed! Gore Vidal did not believe in capital punishment/ execution - except for these ones!

Caller1: Is Mother going to be dealing with these ones?

T: yes! Back in 2000s, they spoke of Orc stew: it requires us to push the issue

- There are only 2 powers: the power of the people, the power of the empire - no middle ground
- when the love of power becomes the power of love: Jimmi Hendrix' words
- The trouble came with the love of money - money on its own is OK.

R: why would you need an elevator for your car in your home?

T: his wife has MS - painful for her to go up and down stairs - yet Ann is not a very nice lady

Caller1: San Diego - Romney has a home there - this is the one with the elevator

- Someone saw him pumping his own gas!

T: Ann has been behind hiding trillions of trillions of dollars: they share the love of money; she is an Illuminati girl! [in response to a question about why she is not a very nice lady]

Caller2: what about Patrick Fitzgerald? He will replace Eric Holder?

T: yes - fast and furious is biting Eric's butt

R: Holder is a schill for Goldman Sachs and Wall Street

Caller: Event with Pope still has to take place?

T: yes - it's all one bag of corruption!

- It has taken 33 years to get this to this place
- When Frank [Chille] said 4 years last night [to make the changes], they all went NOOOOOOO!
It will be sooner than that!

Caller2: can we as a group e-mail the White House and push it?

T: not the White House, but the individual members of Congress who are criminals

Audio: Could a lawsuit put an end to the Senate filibuster?



The organization Common Cause filed suit today against the United States Senate claiming current filibuster rules are unconstitutional. In a statement released today – Common Cause President Bob Edgar said the abuse of the filibuster by minorities on both sides of the aisle – especially Republicans – is, “an affront to our democracy and not the way the Senate was supposed to work.”

Citing a previous Supreme Court decision ruling that the Senate’s rules cannot conflict with the Constitution – Common Cause’s lawsuit alleges that the Constitution ONLY calls for a super-majority requirement in special cases like overriding a Presidential veto or ratifying a treaty – and does not require a super-majority to begin debate, approve judges, or pass routine legislation - as it's used today. Several Members of Congress are plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

For the last few years - led by Mitch McConnell – who boasted that his number one goal is NOT to create jobs for Americans but instead to put President Obama out of a job – a Republican minority has shut down an entire branch of government by abusing the filibuster. This is not what democracy what looks like.

<http://www.commoncause.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=dkLNK1MQIwG&b=4773613&ct=12184073>
Best Historical document on the filing about the filibuster - Bob Edgar www.commoncause.org

On the left hand side, find "Government accountability"; put the cursor on that and "Fix the Filibuster" shows up - this is the tab that brings up the title.

T: Harry Reid is no slouch: he ranted and what he is up against is a different story: need to rip away the secrecy veil from what is happening; Harry is in the angel department and over-shadowed by Serapis Bey - he knows what he's doing!

Audio: Bill Maher January 25, 2013

Nancy Pelosi; Howard Dean, Christen ? a pollster; David ?; Bob Kerry from Nebraska

- It was a values speech: a spectacular inaugural
 - a moral imperative to create jobs

- restore confidence in gov't and get rid of money in politics
- Republicans in country [rural] and Republicans in congress are different - why?
 - Started becoming different when Clinton became President - they are over the edge crowd, don't believe in gov't: won't enforce laws about clean air, good food and so on and so on - even Hurricane Sandy; disrespectful of the President who has tried to be bi-partisan

Bill: she is now co-speaker because JB can't get help from his side! Says she should be the Speaker!

- Democrats got 1 million more votes in America for the House - yes, she is bothered.

NP: On the bright side: elected so many women and minorities: white men now the minority!

- More diversity at the table, the better the decisions
- In CA, the minority turning into the majority; Ca has led the way, Texas will take its own path to changing the political landscape

- possible to pass immigration reform

Bill: You have never been on the cover of a major news mag - insane!

NP: • Well, on MS - she does not think about it a lot!

- Her colleagues thought it was odd: first woman speaker; passing Health Care Act, and so on

- Safety for our children - gun violence protection - these are more important subjects

- on subject of money: time to over turn Citizens United; public financing for campaigns;

- also time to carry out the reform items related to voting - like long line ups at the voting booth, attempts to disenfranchise voters, and so on

Audio: Keiser Report <http://rt.com/programs/keiser-report/> 2012, Jan 24 [Episode 397](#)

In this episode, Max Keiser and Stacy Herbert discuss the Brits offended by the horsemeat in their burgers and yet silent on the disgusting black holes of toxic debts inside taxpayer-owned banks. In the second half of the show, Max Keiser talks to Pulitzer award-winning journalist Jesse Eisinger of ProPublica.org about big banks like Wells Fargo using accounting tricks very similar to those used by Enron, including off balance sheet entities, black box trading, black box loans and black hole financing.

Reading: Melissa Harris Perry From Seneca Falls to Selma to Stonewall

[SEE BELOW]

Reading: The Mayan Factor -

Closing: Rainbird

Music: Monument Valley by Mirabel

FOLLOWING - PRINTED RESOURCES RELATED TO THE NOTES

2013, Jan 21 **Inaugural Address by President Barack Obama**

United States Capitol

11:55 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Vice President Biden, Mr. Chief Justice, members of the United States Congress, distinguished guests, and fellow citizens:

Each time we gather to inaugurate a President we bear witness to the enduring strength of our Constitution. We affirm the promise of our democracy. We recall that what binds this nation together is not the colors of our skin or the tenets of our faith or the origins of our names. What makes us exceptional -- what makes us American -- is our allegiance to an idea articulated in a declaration made more than two centuries ago:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Today we continue a never-ending journey to bridge the meaning of those words with the realities of our time. For history tells us that while these truths may be self-evident, they’ve never been self-executing; that while freedom is a gift from God, it must be secured by His people here on Earth. (Applause.) The patriots of 1776 did not fight to replace the tyranny of a king with the privileges of a few or the rule of a mob. They gave to us a republic, a government of, and by, and for the people, entrusting each generation to keep safe our founding creed.

And for more than two hundred years, we have.

Through blood drawn by lash and blood drawn by sword, we learned that no union founded on the principles of liberty and equality could survive half-slave and half-free. We made ourselves anew, and vowed to move forward together.

Together, we determined that a modern economy requires railroads and highways to speed travel and commerce, schools and colleges to train our workers.

Together, we discovered that a free market only thrives when there are rules to ensure competition and fair play.

Together, we resolved that a great nation must care for the vulnerable, and protect its people from life’s worst hazards and misfortune.

Through it all, we have never relinquished our skepticism of central authority, nor have we succumbed to the fiction that all society’s ills can be cured through government alone. Our celebration of initiative and enterprise, our insistence on hard work and personal responsibility, these are constants in our character.

But we have always understood that when times change, so must we; that fidelity to our founding principles requires new responses to new challenges; that preserving our individual freedoms ultimately requires collective action. For the American people can no more meet the demands of today’s world by acting alone than American soldiers could have met the forces of fascism or communism with muskets and militias. No single person can train all the math and science teachers we’ll need to equip our children for the future, or build the roads and networks and research labs that will bring new jobs and businesses to our shores. Now, more than ever, we must do these things together, as one nation and one people. (Applause.)

This generation of Americans has been tested by crises that steeled our resolve and proved our resilience. A

decade of war is now ending. (Applause.) An economic recovery has begun. (Applause.) America's possibilities are limitless, for we possess all the qualities that this world without boundaries demands: youth and drive; diversity and openness; an endless capacity for risk and a gift for reinvention. My fellow Americans, we are made for this moment, and we will seize it -- so long as we seize it together. (Applause.)

For we, the people, understand that our country cannot succeed when a shrinking few do very well and a growing many barely make it. (Applause.) We believe that America's prosperity must rest upon the broad shoulders of a rising middle class. We know that America thrives when every person can find independence and pride in their work; when the wages of honest labor liberate families from the brink of hardship. We are true to our creed when a little girl born into the bleakest poverty knows that she has the same chance to succeed as anybody else, because she is an American; she is free, and she is equal, not just in the eyes of God but also in our own. (Applause.)

We understand that outworn programs are inadequate to the needs of our time. So we must harness new ideas and technology to remake our government, revamp our tax code, reform our schools, and empower our citizens with the skills they need to work harder, learn more, reach higher. But while the means will change, our purpose endures: a nation that rewards the effort and determination of every single American. That is what this moment requires. That is what will give real meaning to our creed.

We, the people, still believe that every citizen deserves a basic measure of security and dignity. We must make the hard choices to reduce the cost of health care and the size of our deficit. But we reject the belief that America must choose between caring for the generation that built this country and investing in the generation that will build its future. (Applause.) For we remember the lessons of our past, when twilight years were spent in poverty and parents of a child with a disability had nowhere to turn.

We do not believe that in this country freedom is reserved for the lucky, or happiness for the few. We recognize that no matter how responsibly we live our lives, any one of us at any time may face a job loss, or a sudden illness, or a home swept away in a terrible storm. The commitments we make to each other through Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security, these things do not sap our initiative, they strengthen us. (Applause.) They do not make us a nation of takers; they free us to take the risks that make this country great. (Applause.)

We, the people, still believe that our obligations as Americans are not just to ourselves, but to all posterity. We will respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that the failure to do so would betray our children and future generations. (Applause.) Some may still deny the overwhelming judgment of science, but none can avoid the devastating impact of raging fires and crippling drought and more powerful storms.

The path towards sustainable energy sources will be long and sometimes difficult. But America cannot resist this transition, we must lead it. We cannot cede to other nations the technology that will power new jobs and new industries, we must claim its promise. That's how we will maintain our economic vitality and our national treasure -- our forests and waterways, our crop lands and snow-capped peaks. That is how we will preserve our planet, commanded to our care by God. That's what will lend meaning to the creed our fathers once declared.

We, the people, still believe that enduring security and lasting peace do not require perpetual war. (Applause.) Our brave men and women in uniform, tempered by the flames of battle, are unmatched in skill and courage. (Applause.) Our citizens, seared by the memory of those we have lost, know too well the price that is paid for liberty. The knowledge of their sacrifice will keep us forever vigilant against those who would do us harm. But we are also heirs to those who won the peace and not just the war; who turned sworn enemies into the surest of friends -- and we must carry those lessons into this time as well.

We will defend our people and uphold our values through strength of arms and rule of law. We will show the courage to try and resolve our differences with other nations peacefully -- not because we are naïve about the

dangers we face, but because engagement can more durably lift suspicion and fear. (Applause.)

America will remain the anchor of strong alliances in every corner of the globe. And we will renew those institutions that extend our capacity to manage crisis abroad, for no one has a greater stake in a peaceful world than its most powerful nation. We will support democracy from Asia to Africa, from the Americas to the Middle East, because our interests and our conscience compel us to act on behalf of those who long for freedom. And we must be a source of hope to the poor, the sick, the marginalized, the victims of prejudice -- not out of mere charity, but because peace in our time requires the constant advance of those principles that our common creed describes: tolerance and opportunity, human dignity and justice.

We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths -- that all of us are created equal -- is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall; just as it guided all those men and women, sung and unsung, who left footprints along this great Mall, to hear a preacher say that we cannot walk alone; to hear a King proclaim that our individual freedom is inextricably bound to the freedom of every soul on Earth. (Applause.)

It is now our generation's task to carry on what those pioneers began. For our journey is not complete until our wives, our mothers and daughters can earn a living equal to their efforts. (Applause.) Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law -- (applause) -- for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well. (Applause.) Our journey is not complete until no citizen is forced to wait for hours to exercise the right to vote. (Applause.) Our journey is not complete until we find a better way to welcome the striving, hopeful immigrants who still see America as a land of opportunity -- (applause) -- until bright young students and engineers are enlisted in our workforce rather than expelled from our country. (Applause.) Our journey is not complete until all our children, from the streets of Detroit to the hills of Appalachia, to the quiet lanes of Newtown, know that they are cared for and cherished and always safe from harm.

That is our generation's task -- to make these words, these rights, these values of life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness real for every American. Being true to our founding documents does not require us to agree on every contour of life. It does not mean we all define liberty in exactly the same way or follow the same precise path to happiness. Progress does not compel us to settle centuries-long debates about the role of government for all time, but it does require us to act in our time. (Applause.)

For now decisions are upon us and we cannot afford delay. We cannot mistake absolutism for principle, or substitute spectacle for politics, or treat name-calling as reasoned debate. (Applause.) We must act, knowing that our work will be imperfect. We must act, knowing that today's victories will be only partial and that it will be up to those who stand here in four years and 40 years and 400 years hence to advance the timeless spirit once conferred to us in a spare Philadelphia hall.

My fellow Americans, the oath I have sworn before you today, like the one recited by others who serve in this Capitol, was an oath to God and country, not party or faction. And we must faithfully execute that pledge during the duration of our service. But the words I spoke today are not so different from the oath that is taken each time a soldier signs up for duty or an immigrant realizes her dream. My oath is not so different from the pledge we all make to the flag that waves above and that fills our hearts with pride.

They are the words of citizens and they represent our greatest hope. You and I, as citizens, have the power to set this country's course. You and I, as citizens, have the obligation to shape the debates of our time -- not only with the votes we cast, but with the voices we lift in defence of our most ancient values and enduring ideals. (Applause.)

Let us, each of us, now embrace with solemn duty and awesome joy what is our lasting birthright. With common effort and common purpose, with passion and dedication, let us answer the call of history and carry into an uncertain future that precious light of freedom.

Thank you. God bless you, and may He forever bless these United States of America. (Applause.)

END

12:10 P.M. EST

2013, Jan 23 From Seneca Falls to Selma to Stonewall

[Melissa Harris-Perry](#)



AP Images

Inaugurations are symbolic events, this year's most of all. The pomp and circumstance was wholly symbolic because there was no transition of power, and the president and vice president had taken the official oath of office the previous day. The inauguration also neatly symbolized the layers of America's racial history, as the country's first black president was re-inaugurated on Martin Luther King Day, 150 years after Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Infused with powerful and fraught symbols at every turn, January 21, 2013, was more a poetic text than a government event.

It would be easy to dismiss the president's inaugural address as wholly symbolic as well, as just seductive rhetoric that lacks substance. Political oratory is a poor substitute for public policy, but symbolism is not entirely divorced from political outcomes. There was one moment in particular in President Obama's speech that deserves to be considered as a substantive contribution to our democracy, even if no direct policy changes emerge from it:

We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths—that all of us are created equal—is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls and Selma and Stonewall; just as it guided all those men and women, sung and unsung, who left footprints along this great Mall, to hear a preacher say that we cannot walk alone; to hear a King proclaim that our individual freedom is inextricably bound to the freedom of every soul on earth.

When the president name-checked the watershed moments of the women's rights, civil rights and LGBT equality movements, he offered a powerful moment of official recognition. And recognition matters, even if there is no explicit policy agenda immediately attached to it. I am not implying that the Obama administration lacks a policy agenda to advance the social, legal and economic equality of those groups. And I am not suggesting that this speech is sufficient to realize that end, or that these rhetorical flourishes liberate the Obama administration from political accountability to these constituencies.

Still, we can judge the value of this statement as a symbol separate and apart from any subsequent policy outcomes. It matters, in and of itself, because recognition is intrinsically valuable in a democracy. As I argue in my latest book, *Sister Citizen*, mutual affirming recognition is the practice that allows citizens to operate as equals.

Typically, we think about justice in terms of distribution: how many economic resources, educational opportunities or political pathways, for example, are available to various groups and individuals. This is a reasonable but limited way to think about fairness. Citizens want more than a fair distribution of resources; they

also desire—and are willing to sacrifice for—accurate, meaningful and mutual recognition of their humanity and uniqueness.

I cringe at metaphors implying the similarity of the state and the family, but recognition is usefully framed in a familial context. Children experience connection to and fairness within the family in terms of opportunities for recognition, even if all children are given the same material resources. Fair parents observe, engage and recognize all their children just as surely as they feed, shelter and educate them. Members of a national body share a similar desire to be seen and recognized by the state. A system is not fair if citizens do not enjoy equal opportunities for public recognition.

And this means recognition of all their identities, both the ones with which we are comfortable and the ones that make us anxious. All presidents use inaugural addresses to reflect on the American people. But naming citizens solely by their national identity ignores how identities like gender, race, class and sexual orientation profoundly shape what it means to be an American. For marginal and stigmatized groups, public life threatens the opportunity for accurate recognition. W.E.B. Du Bois characterized the recognition issue for black Americans by asking, “How does it feel to be a problem?” Ralph Ellison described it as being an “invisible man.” Betty Friedan lamented it as “the problem that has no name.” Gay Americans have long identified it as “the closet.” In each case, the challenge is the same: a lack of fair and accurate recognition.

Our collective work is to provide space for that just recognition to occur. President Obama did so on a chilly January morning. Previous presidents have asked marginalized Americans to read themselves into the national story, but President Obama actively wrote these groups into our history. Obama positioned Seneca Falls, Selma and Stonewall as the fulfillment of a nascent promise in Jefferson’s declaration, and thereby recognizes the deeply American narrative embedded in these moments.

Fair recognition and just distribution are not alternatives; they are companions in political struggle. The civil rights movement from which Martin Luther King Jr. emerged was as much a movement of recognition as it was of redistribution. Black people were organized for integration of schools, economic opportunity and political power, but they used a recognition strategy to get there. Marches, sit-ins and boycotts used black bodies in new ways. Segregated labor, housing, education and public space allowed black life to occur in the shadows, far from the consciousness of most white Americans. The civil rights movement forced the country to recognize the accomplishments, the sufferings and the humanity of black people by making their experiences starkly visible and claiming the right to be recognized. Being seen was part of the struggle. Being seen is still part of the struggle. President Obama’s inaugural address is yet another step in the long march toward fairness.

Now that the president has spoken out for collective action, solidarity, social justice, we’d better make him act on it. See this week’s lead editorial, “[Obama’s Shout-Out to Freedom](#).”

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