

SUMMARY OF DEREK C. BOK'S ARTICLE ON EASING POLITICAL CYNICISM WITH CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Derek C. Bok talks about the growing cynicism among American public to the country's political situation resulting to lack of participation in civic activities that supports government programs and activities. He stresses, though, the importance of citizens' participation in the country's political issues as well as the important role of the federal government to the growth and well being of its citizens.

Important Role of the Government

The government's role is important to address the various socio-economic as well as cultural concerns of the American people. Recent years show the growing demand of the American people for the government's services aside from its traditional role in providing national security. Nowadays, the people demands services from the government related to economic security, environment, health care access, equality in gender and race, and consumer protection. These services address the overall welfare of the people. Thus, it is crucial that the federal government performs well.

The Impact of Americans' Political Cynicism

Distrust of Americans to the political system, the government and to politicians endangers the moral authority of the government to fulfill its purpose in serving its people. This might result to political leaders' indecisiveness to implement reforms for fear of increasing the distrust of its people that consequently affects the effectiveness in the delivery of its services to society.

Lesser voters' turnout in the elections hampers the democratic foundation of the government which is supposed to have the active participation of majority of its citizens. Consequently, low levels of participation in civic affairs also indicate lesser interest on political concerns. These realities, if left unchecked, could endanger the authenticity of the country's political process and lessen the country's unity as a whole. We can never achieve political reforms unless citizens of the United States of America play an active role in the country's political process.

Easing Political Cynicism with Civic Involvement

Derek C. Bok reiterates that curtailing the voice of the citizenry in the political process does not resolve the issue of strengthening the country's democracy and increasing involvement of the people in political affairs. Instead, he suggested various forms of civic involvements to lessen political cynicism in the country. Increasing school programs on civic education, increasing public spending on public affairs programming and using the internet to increase access to public information about the government are some of these measures. He also suggested for the creation of a uniform day of voters registration and find new ways to make voting easier.

Do You Believe that Bok's Suggestion for Improving Civic Involvement Would Work or Not Work?

Derek C. Bok's suggestions on implementing measures to ensure higher civic involvement among the citizens of the United States are practical approach to resolve the problem of political cynicism. Thus, it is going to work for the American people and encourage them to get more involved.

Identifying the important role of schools and information technologies in inculcating interest and involvement among Americans in political issues and process is a realistic approach that will ultimately help change American's growing political cynicism to that of awareness and interest of political issues as well as of their important roles in preserving the democracy and supporting the government. Education system and information technology, after all, are powerful tools in creating awareness and eliciting interest that redounds to people participating in several issues. These systems encourage people to have their voices heard, and what better way to do it by participating actively in civic affairs.

What Changes Can You Come Up With that Might Encourage a Larger Voter Turnout?

Likewise, creating changes in the political education of people will help in increasing voter turnout. Increasing political education of people on their important roles in the country's political process and state of democracy can lead to an increase in voters' turnout during elections. Wider public disseminations of the elections, encouraging citizens to go out and cast their votes can substantially help in increasing voters' turnout in elections. Let the major television series of American television include in their storylines about voting for the elections to convince people to go out and vote. Let movie stars use their star powers convince Americans to cast their votes in every possible way they can. Using this high profile approach in soliciting voters' turnout is not such a bad idea.