**NPR Suppressing the First Amendment against Juan Williams**

October 22, 2010 Vincent Garrett

The First Amendment is simple, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.” In a previous essay I stated the freedom of speech, that we currently share, promoted great advances in American civil liberties from the outcry of slavery to open symbolic speech, to promoting the general welfare for the people by the people. Yet it is becoming alarmingly clear that a new prejudice has emerged beyond race or social class, but a prejudice in political party association.

When I read that Juan Williams was fired by NPR for stating a personal feeling about his view of Muslims on an airplane to Bill O’Reilly; to me that was over the top and simply wrong. Is it getting that bad that even Juan Williams cannot maintain his own right to publicly state a personal observation about his own feelings?

What’s worst is here is another example of hypocrisy from organizations like the NAACP that supposedly promote equality to simply turning against their own. It’s no secret I feel the NAACP has outlived its purpose. Now it’s just an entity promoting political ideology under the guise of an ancient 40 year civil rights issue of equality for African-Americans. Where is Jesse Jackson? Where is Al Sharpton? I only ask because these are two guys that “ambulance chase” any and all issues that are suspect of racial tension; especially something as high profile as this.

My intention is not to rile up a racial debate, but rather step back and looking at a bigger picture of what is potentially suppression of the very right we are holding on to by a thread. What is so wrong with expressing your own personal opinion just to get fired for it? Remember the bookstore employee in Boston that was fired for expressing her opinion towards homosexuality? What about the South Carolina Brixx Pizza waitress that was let go for her Facebook posting of a customer?

I hate to say it but this country is turning into a country of politically correct wimps. I have always expected people to be man or woman enough to share your opinions or feedback about me. If I offend anyone then that’s what I would expect and demand and I will fix it; and I would do the same for you. But I would not start an outcry to void you of your personal freedom of speech!

All and all, NPR’s firing of their own is going to be an issue for a while. Not just because of the Juan’s termination, but of the light that will be shed on media corruption, hypocrisy, and upcoming legal ramifications of violating the First Amendment.