

Plastic, Nuclear Weapons and the Post Office. What do these three things have in common? Well let's see. They're all great products and should be saved, well at least according to certain people.

First plastic. I just learned at a recent zoom meeting that one of our West Windsor township Council members who is also a member of our Environmental Commission is against banning plastic bags because they are such a great product, sturdy, durable, blah blah blah. OKayyyy! Interesting perspective to say the least.

Second, Nuclear Weapons. Some of you may be surprised to hear a board member of the Coalition for Peace Action, an organization dedicated to banning nuclear weapons along with war in general for the past 40 years, use the terms Nuclear Weapons and good product in the same sentence. Well according to certain people that is. For example, there happens to be a certain despicable someone who thinks nuclear weapons are a good thing and horrifically thinks that one could be used to harmlessly stop hurricanes in their tracks among other things. Unbelievable, to say the least!

These first two so-called good products are prime examples of the old adage, just because you can do something doesn't mean you should, on steroids.

So that brings us to the post office. Not only certain people, but virtually everyone agrees that not only is the post office a good product but an essential one, essential to the lives of just about

everyone (including baby chicks) and essential to the foundations of our democracy in so many ways that we all know and which is why we are all here rallying to save it. It must be saved, no question.

Here are a few interesting tidbits of post office history. It turns out when the million-dollar Hope Diamond was donated to the Smithsonian Institution, it was mailed from New York City to Washington, D.C., in a brown paper parcel. The reason being as I discovered, was that it was normal practice for London diamond traders to send and receive consignments of diamonds through the ordinary Royal Mail post. Turns out this was considered safer than sending them via private courier services, as a delivery arranged by courier could be tracked and a robbery set up, but once a small brown paper parcel went into a post box, there was no way criminals could find it en route to its destination! Hmm, could there actually be shortcomings to private for profit courier services, Mr Lous Dejoy? Very Interesting!!!

Then there is the USPS motto which one popular version most of know as "Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor hail, nor an orange despotic egotistical mysoginistic maniacal ignoramus shall keep the postmen from their appointed rounds". It turns out that the original saying was actually "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these courageous couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" and was said about 2500 years ago by the Greek historian, Herodotus. He said this adage during the war between the Greeks and Persians about 500 B.C.

in reference to the Persian mounted postal couriers whom he observed and held in high esteem.

As I alluded to, many people believe this saying to be the U.S.P.S. motto, but, in fact, it is not because there is not no official slogan at all. The reason it has become identified with the U.S.P.S. is because back in 1896-97 when the New York City General Post Office was being designed, an employee of the architectural firm tasked with the project, came up with the idea of engraving Herodotus' saying all around the outside of the building. From that time on the saying has been associated with U.S. postal carriers. It is none other than the Farley building that bears this inscription which many of us have seen countless times when we used to travel regularly to Penn Station.

There is one other correction I should make before concluding my remarks. The popular version of the postal carriers' motto does not actually include the part about the "orange despotic egotistical mysoginistic maniacal ignoramus". The fact remains - we do have to stop this blowhard and his evil henchmen from carrying out this latest round of their dirty deeds and make sure that our essential postal service workers and all essential workers will continue to be able to carry out their appointed rounds both safely, and with respect and dignity.

Of two things I am certain, this ignoramus, despite living in the same City as the Farley building for decades has likely never looked up long enough from counting his profits to read that noble inscription nor if he did would he understand it. Secondly, despite

his so-called education at an Ivy League University, where courses on Greek history and Herodotus abound, I am certain he would have no idea who Herodotus even was nor would he understand the contribution of Greek Civilization to the principles of our Democracy.