

A Few Minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

Going too far — again

A recent article in the newsletter of the Illinois Policy Institute once again shows how “the right” politically thinks of law enforcement.

A comment on Lt. G.I. Joe in Fox Lake, according to the author, left him shaking his head when the truth about this officer “faked suicide” came out. Most of us would agree. In fact, two weeks after the incident, sources told me “they” were thinking suicide and that Lt. Gliniewicz was being investigated. I looked at it as heresy until more information came in, but I bet any investigator looking at the scene knew it wasn’t a murder. But at the behest of someone, the facts took a long time to come out.

Many others in Copland and I just knew we were going to take a hit. While again, we should always wait for the facts to come out, my humble opinion is that the brass dropped the ball here. Suicide in the absence of better evidence should always be considered. And the public does have a right to know if there are homicidal killers out there.

Waiting as long as they did and then “dumping” on the officer and his family with so much bad stuff has left us all in a vulnerable position. We are taking the hit when warnings should have been given much earlier. But why do that when leadership can just throw the cops under the proverbial bus? And I believe they did that, not only to the public but to the “grunts” out there giving their time to find non-existing killers.

Case in point is the aforementioned article. The author states that administration “scuttles around covering their butts and saying he (Lt. Joe) was never really all of that good of an employee anyway.” And he points out some of Gliniewicz’s bad behavior and that it is an accountability problem. Can’t argue with that, but they throw that out at the same time they announce his suicide? Bad timing, or just CYA by the brass again?

Where this gets dicey is that he stole from the taxpayers, too, says the article. Really? With the Illinois Policy institute, I guess it’s always about the taxpayers.

Even with our pensions, they tout the taxpayers being screwed as they wish our pensions to be cut, sliced, and diced. Even though it’s the politicians who screwed those taxpayers, they want law enforcement to foot the bill. They forget we are all taxpayers and some of us want the politicians to take the brunt of the bad press and the costs.

Cozying up to the taxpayers rational I feel was unnecessary. But then the author ravishes us once more by spouting out that it’s hard to fire a government worker and that it’s even harder to fire a “unionized” government worker, meaning Lt. Joe of course. If they only fired him all would be okay. We don’t know if he was unionized and it’s up to administrators to fire someone — not unions. Is it that complicated for some folks to figure that out?

What a crock. As you all know, those employees in law enforcement get disciplined or fired when the few bad ones surface. Bad cops always get weeded out. In fact, it looks like this was going to happen to Gliniewicz that very morning. Otherwise, why kill yourself as he did to avoid the embarrassment, the guilt, and possibly prison?

Some media outlets just pile on and this article is just in poor taste. He goes on to say that unions advocate “due process” for their members and he scoffs at that by reporting “Do you really think workers sit around in the breakroom and say, I sure hope Sally’s due process rights are protected? No, he says they just hope she doesn’t lose her job.”

And what’s wrong with that? Depending on circumstances, unions do hope to provide due process and ensure that a worker’s rights are afforded. Because we all know how unfair a chief and his skills in various police commissions will act.

He thinks all unions are too powerful. No, we provide an opportunity to a worker to have a defense, just like any other person in America. Some of his other statements are just pure garbage.

Unions are not the devil — unless you are a far right winger like many who want to bring us down to “begging” and not “bargaining.” It’s bad enough that the left wing loonies are changing the landscape for law enforcement. Now the right wants us to have not only pay cuts, benefits cuts, and pension cuts, but be held to the unknown standards of the workplace, whatever that means.

And using the sad story of Lt. Gliniewicz is not the forum for dissing cops. So they can all go fly a kite as far as I’m concerned.

Vita é bella