

Dreams From My Real Father: A Story of Reds and Deception

In his new faux documentary, disgruntled ex-hippie Joel Gilbert attempts to make the case for President Obama lying about the identity of his real father by literally offering an alternative reading of "Dreams" From My Father." As the filmmaker's theory goes, instead of being born to onetime Kenyan goatherder Barack Obama Sr. and Stanley Ann Dunham, the future POTUS' birth father was American poet, journalist, poet, political and labor organizer and card-carrying commie, Frank Marshall Davis. The President has never denied the presence of Davis in his life as a mentor, of sorts, but Gilbert wants us to believe that the beliefs of the long-dead man still influence his each and every decision, as if he was a character in "The Manchurian Candidate." Oddly enough, Gilbert's creation myth contradicts the "birther" argument that was Obama was born in Kenya and, therefore, isn't eligible to be President. Because Davis was an American citizen, it wouldn't matter where Obama was born. That argument doesn't sit well with die-hard birthers, like Donald Trump, Sheriff Joe Arpaio and thousands of other people with nothing better to do with their lives than to torture us with their hallucinations. Gilbert thinks it's more important to focus on Obama's Marxist DNA. Like everything else in this pitiful documentary, which already has found traction on the Internet, the grains of sands upon which he builds his case for America's first commie commander-in-chief are easily washed away by the truth. If Obama is carrying out a Marxist agenda, he's doing a piss-poor job of it. In fact, most of the decisions he's made in his first four years in the White House have angered dyed-in-the-wool leftists - as opposed to liberal Democrats and TV pundits — as much as they have conservatives. His financial advisers helped rescue Wall Street from collapse and kept bankers out of prison; he hasn't lifted the ridiculous economic blockade of Cuba; his attorney general continues to target legal marijuana dispensaries and growers; he and his wife are extremely wealthy; he hasn't ended the war in Afghanistan or stood up to oil cartels; and the Pentagon still is in bed with Halliburton, Academi (formerly Blackwater) and other war-profiteers. That's some Marxist agenda.

In fact, the person pretending to read from "Dreams From My Real Father" in the documentary reminds me more of Jeff Foxworthy than a 34-year-old Barack Obama. Instead of "You might be a redneck, if …" jokes, Gilbert's narrator might as well be saying, "You might be a Marxist, if …" By using the laws of flaky logic and hysterical conjecture, he appears to be arguing, "You might be a Marxist if: one of your parents is African-American; one of your parents is poet/photographer/journalist/activist; one of your parents is white and is friends with an African-American poet/photographer/journalist/activist; you attended a school named after Abraham Lincoln (as did Davis); you've ever joined a union or participated in a strike; doubted that bankers and Republicans had your best interests in mind; know the difference between Karl Marx and Zeppo Marx;

don't believe that the medical and insurance industries always have your best interests at heart; are friends with Bill Ayres, Bernadine Dohrn, Bill Ayres' capitalist-tool father, David Axelrod or anyone who went to college in the 1960s; you smoked pot or partied hardy in college; have personally benefitted from affirmative-action programs; are related to someone who may have posed nude for a photographer; don't believe everything you hear on talk radio; have ever read or listened to the words of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr. and Reverend Jeremiah Wright; didn't refuse to read 'The Communist Manifesto,' when it was assigned by your high-school history teacher; or if you believe that the Bill of Rights should apply to anyone darker than white." That's the extent of the scholarship in "Dreams From My Real Father."

The point is, though, even if everything Gilbert says were to be proven true and Davis is Obama's real father, what difference would it make? If, as POTUS, Obama continues to act more like a moderate Republican than anyone left of, say, Charlie Rose, it won't bring about a rebellion by the proletariat or unemployed workers. He can't get anything remotely progressive through Congress, anyway. Better that Gilbert focus on Mitt Romney, who, besides being someone willing to sell the assets of this country to multinational corporations and predatory capitalists, could move to Mexico tomorrow and be granted citizenship by the same government that provided refuge for his grandparents and other members of a well-known polygamous cult. If he wins, American men could be required to marry more than one woman, father dozens of children and voluntarily give up their jobs, so they can be outsourced to any country where workers are paid less than a dollar a day. American women would have to get used to those sister-wife hairdos; be required to share child-custody rights with the men who raped them; and crawl back under the glass ceiling. You see, liberals can make up crazy shit and put it on the Internet, too.

–Gary Dretzka

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