

**From:** [David Kraemer](#)  
**To:** [Covid Affiliate Archives](#)  
**Subject:** FW: One Person's Response to Communal Fear 4.27.20  
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**From:** Morris Allen <mojo210al@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 9:31 AM  
**To:** MOJO210AL <MOJO210AL@aol.com>  
**Subject:** One Person's Response to Communal Fear 4.27.20

WAGON WHEEL CENSUS 3 Trucks 3 SUV's 1 Runner 1 ISD#197 Bus #1916

There is nothing more wonderful than an early morning walk after an overnight night rainfall. The bouquet fills the noise with an amazing array of smells that awakens one from sleep. The sounds of the peepers and the birds, the ducks and the geese remind you that while our world is shutdown, the world they inhabit awakens each morning with a daily schedule hardly changed. But I digress.....

I first encountered the notion of the "Infinite Retractability of Words Principle" (IRWP) as a result of a very talented and gifted writer, MBF. He mused about the possibility of never having to say your sorry, about the ability of plausibly denying having said what was indeed said and eliminating the construct of lying completely. By simply invoking the IRWP, he imagined a world where speech mattered little and every interaction was simply a reflection of a single moment with no implications for future situations. Of course, while a wonderful construct to allow one to escape an uncomfortable situation, he and I both knew that in the line of work we were going into that the words we spoke and the messages we shared were never going to be able to simply be retracted because we invoked a principle we found liberating. Of course, over the past three years we have watched as the President took this mythical principle and turned it into a lifestyle approach to governing. Even in the face of his words being on tape, he simply invokes the principle and acts as if he has no responsibility for the words already uttered. The latest and dangerous comments about disinfactant come the heels of three years of invoking this principle and labeling anyone who asks about previous contradictory statements a member of the lame or fake news.

The sad thing, if we are going to be honest, is that the President is not alone in trying to utilize this principle. All too many people try to escape responsibility for their words and actions by invoking IWRP and believing they are off the hook for their comments and actions. The real illness inflicting our society is the rampant presence of the IRWP. It is eating away at the bonds of friendships, fraying family ties, undermining workers trust in management. In the world in which we live, where people feel an insatiable need to post about their parenting and their partnering without regard to the feelings of those spoken about, people then simply claim that not only were they simply being sarcastic but that they were tired and overwhelmed. The words don't mean what they say they

mean and just forget about it. In truth, there are way too many people who actually accept the explanation and move on. While people can focus their anger on the President himself, they are willing to ignore the less visible but ultimately equally damaging comments made by those who are not in the same spotlight. For me, the culprit remains social media. While there is clearly a need to understand the benefits of having a social media presence, the lack of self-control and of understanding the actual hurt they have inflicted on others, is something that indicates that most folks need to use the platforms sparingly and with restraint. I know this first-hand. Just before I began my current work, I failed to understand the difference between the “political” and the “policy” aspects of serving a Congresswoman. On someone’s Facebook page, I made a comment about his political sympathies for a person who I saw as being counter to the best interests of a cause I cherished. What I didn’t know was that this person on whose page I commented on had a straight line to my new Boss. Within the first week on the job, I was asked about the comment. Answering honestly and apologetically, I was told in no uncertain terms that this was an unacceptable action and if anything like that were to occur again, I would not be working in my job.

Over the last 16 months, I am confident that not only did I learn the lesson, but my boss would have lost out on having an otherwise capable and talented Community Liaison. I made some very quick decisions that lonely [Friday afternoon](#). I deactivated my Facebook page and took a solid vow to not speak about any member of Congress (other than my representative), regardless of their party. While I wish I would have deactivated years ago, I am confident that most people fail to grasp the significance of their comments on those pages and simply believe that IRWP applies to them at will. It is not accidental that the master of tweets is also the greatest proponent of IRWP. And it is for that reason that our President can invoke it at will and that 40% or more of the American public still trust his leadership. When people say horrible things about family or friends, acquaintances or people they never met, the tenor of our society is altered forever. We learn the base beliefs of people that can never be forgotten, and our trust in them is changed. Morning walks after a nightfall of rain remind us of the multitudes of blessings that are ours—and not needing to see how many likes or comments of sympathy or support I receive for a post has been liberating. While MBF crafted a fantasy known as IRWP more than 40 years ago, it has surfaced inside society now in ways that he could have never imagined. Folks, it doesn’t exist and what we say stays with us long after we apologize—if we even apologize. My suggestion is simple enough—deactivate and go outside and see the beauty of the world all around us. Smelling the freshness of the world and hearing its sounds will remind you daily how blessed our lives truly are. Morris

Sent by my iPad