

**Summary of Remarks**  
**Ed Meese, Former Attorney General**  
**“The Importance of the 2016 Election”**  
**Delivered June 2016 Freedom Cruise**

With the exception of the Civil War, our Constitutional Republic has never been in greater jeopardy than it is today. Eight examples point to the reasons for this dire assessment:

1. **ObamaCare** is the greatest Federal Government power-grab in the history of our nation, giving Washington, D.C. autocrats control over every man, woman and child regarding a critical aspect of their lives, a tremendous loss of freedom.
2. **Executive Action**-A lawless president regularly usurps the power and authority given by the Constitution to the Congress, using his “ phone and pens” to make invalid appointments, violate statutes, and expand the regulatory oppression of the Federal Government.
3. **Congress** no longer works the way the Founders intended in exercising its responsibilities under the Constitution. Failure to follow the appropriate process and to control government spending has led to historic deficits, while lack of careful consideration and thorough debate on massive legislation- often with no time for members to ever read the bills- has seriously impaired the representation of the people.
4. Attacks on **religious liberty** have never been greater, with curtailments of religious speech and expression government limitations on the free exercise of religion and the requiring of people in business to perform activities that violate their conscience and moral beliefs.

5. **Economic liberty** is being drastically reduced. While the United States has previously been among the top three nations in *The Various Indices of Economic Freedom* published by international experts, during the past four years the United States has sunk to eleventh or twelfth, showing the negative impact on recent governmental policies and actions.
6. **National Security**- the primary responsibility of the Federal Government- is in a serious and dangerous condition. A feckless and inconsistent foreign policy and series of mistakes has led to great concerns and widespread disapproval among our own citizens, while leaving our nation in a position where we are no longer a reliable ally to our friends or a credible deterrent to our enemies. In addition, our military capability and readiness are being diminished by cuts in the manpower and resources of the Armed Forces and by leftist social engineering and political policies that harm morals, discipline, and mission accomplishment.
7. The **culture** of our own civil society is being destroyed by those who are trying to transform our nation by defeating our heritage of traditional values, liberty, and entrepreneurial spirit, and replacing it with the leftist agenda of multiculturalism, undeserved claims of entitlement, identity policies, false victimhood and political correctness.
8. The future of the **Supreme Court** and the federal judiciary hangs upon the judicial appointments philosophy and actions of the next president. Recent presidential appointments have moved the courts, particularly the Supreme Court, away from Constitutional fidelity and adherence to the rule of the law. A Supreme Court appointment going further in that direction would provide a solid anti-Constitutional majority that would have a devastating effect on our system of justice and the freedom of our people.