

We Don't Need No Stinkin Zealous Advocacy

by *Marc J. Victor*

Back in the good old days when Americans were interested in freedom, criminal defense attorneys had an ethical duty to zealously advocate for their clients. The concept being that an adversarial system of justice was more likely to produce just results than an inquisitorial system of justice. However, the Arizona Supreme Court recently decided that the age old duty of zealous advocacy is no longer appropriate. Attorneys in Arizona now have no such ethical duty.

I interpret this change to mean the government has determined it is no longer in the government's interest for criminal defense attorneys to be zealous when they fight the government. No kidding. One could expect nothing different so long as the government supplies all the judges, the prosecutors and strictly regulates all criminal defense attorneys. Imagine a situation where one baseball team unilaterally approves and pays the umpires and determines who plays for the other

team. You wouldn't be shocked when they picked players for the other team who agreed not to play too zealously.

I recently tried a case for a client who was charged with a crime arising out of a bar room brawl. I suspected the arresting police officer wouldn't be able to identify my client at the trial but would nonetheless testify under oath that he could. On the day of trial, I asked my client to sit in the back row of the courtroom while his uninvolved friend accompanied me at the defense table. I informed the court my client was present in the courtroom and we were ready for trial.

As expected, the officer testified under oath that the friend sitting next to me was the man he arrested. He was absolutely certain. I immediately informed the court that I did not agree the officer had identified my client. After the government rested its case, the friend testified revealing his identity. After some expected legal wrangling, the judge entered a judg-

ment of acquittal. My client was thrilled. The aggravated prosecutor stormed out of the courtroom.

Months later, I learned the prosecutor's supervisor filed a bar complaint against me alleging I misled the court and an investigation was commencing. My state granted privilege to enter into voluntary contracts with adults for representation was at stake. To his credit, the elected judge backed me and signed an affidavit stating I did nothing to mislead him. This did not deter the bar or the prosecutor who was determined to punish me for misleading the judge who says he was not misled. Indeed, the prosecutor argued to the bar that the judge's opinion about not being misled was not relevant. After months of haggling, the state bar grudgingly admitted I had not violated any ethical duties and the complaint against me was dismissed.

Despite the fact that we all know what happened that day in court, no complaint

was ever filed against the government police officer. No government investigation was commenced against the government police officer. None was expected. Government courts have ruled that government police officers are permitted to lie to citizens all they want. They often do. However, government prosecutors often charge citizens with crimes if a citizen lies to a government police officer.

So long as the government administers the criminal justice system, only the government will be protected. Whenever you find yourself in a government court fighting the government, remember that the government doesn't want your attorney to have an ethical obligation to zealously represent you. They want your quick plea of guilty and the accompanying fines and various sanctions which now include your DNA in many cases. Although it may seem unfair, I'm sure the government set up this system with only our protection in mind.

A Passion for Truth

by *Ernest Hancock*

In 1 Samuel 8:10-18, God, through Samuel, warns the Israelites against the idea of a king. When they persist, despite God's warning, God tells Samuel to go "make them a king." This is clear evidence that God sanctions both free will and its consequences.

Reread God's warning against imposing government on yourself: "And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the Lord will not hear you in that day." I remember God's warnings whenever I am presented with a new law that would use the force of a secular government to enforce compliance with what is sold as "God's will". I find it distasteful for my children to be taught to abandon faith in the power of Christ's message to alter another's self-destructive behavior, and to embrace government's forced social and economic engineering.

My wife and I took our four teenagers (two boys, two girls) to experience "The

Passion of the Christ." What I hoped Mel Gibson would do, he did, and did well. I remember having read an American Medical Association account of Roman crucifixions from a doctor's perspective and was prepared for the intense visual (and emotional) impact. And I found it hypocritical for film critics who applauded "Saving Private Ryan" for its realistic portrayal of war, to then decry the violence done to Jesus in Gibson's film.

There was no overt attempt to promote a belief, or to explain the meaning behind the life of Jesus. The movie filled the void left by other film makers who were too fearful to even attempt depicting the final hours of Christ's life as recorded. The movie doesn't delve into the accuracy, authorship or meaning of the Gospels -- or the evils of the Roman Empire; it merely presents an accurate visual account of the process of crucifixion as it was recorded, and as it has been taught for almost 2,000 years.

Saying "Jesus is Lord" meant saying that the Romans and the Temple rulers were not. And it is this challenge, to the collective authority of men, that has made those of faith a constant threat to those who would lay claim to your life -- and all that it has or will produce. Individuals who answer to a higher authority are very dangerous when forced to choose between service to their God (conscience) or the Church or the State. Jesus was dangerous to the false gods of earthly institutions, and God used their fear and brutality against Jesus as a very effective method to spread a message that included tolerance, forgiveness, faith and freedom.

As we take the time to discuss the use of the power of government to protect the rights endowed to us by our Creator, I hope that we are very mindful of our individual obligation to not allow that power to be used to violate those rights by the infamous "they". "There are those who wish to be left alone and there are those that will not leave them alone". "They," in this case, are those who will not leave you alone. I choose to peacefully promote answering to a higher authority.

Often here in America we have been more fortunate than in other parts of the

world, due to our cultural support of freedom through our traditional institutions. Sadly, that is changing, and danger is on the horizon. There is no virtue in forced compliance, and Jesus taught us not to seek Caesar's enforcement of God's laws. He used witness, testimony, example, parable and compassion to bring about a voluntary change.

Instead of wasting time putting faith in the collective force of fallible men, Jesus demonstrated the power of faith in God's word, while showing each of us that we are not worthy to cast the first stone. I would argue that it is weakness to empower others to force compliance with the laws of men, or God, in our name. I think we know what Jesus would do.

And if you don't ... well, the book is always better than the movie.

"Declare Your Independence with Ernest Hancock M-F 6pm-8pm MST KFNX 1100 - Phoenix, AZ. Heard across the state at 50,000 watts or live on the Internet at www.ernesthancock.com

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Medical MJ - step forward or two steps back (or both)?

by *Aaron J. Biterman*

I don't know why libertarians persist in promoting "medical marijuana." I fell into the trap for a little while, but have since woken up. I hope my fellow libertarians will wake up soon, before it's too late.

Libertarians of all stripes should unite against what is commonly called "medical" marijuana, the concept that marijuana is a pain reliever for certain human beings and must therefore be sanctioned by the state through public law.

Do Libertarians support more state control of private behavior, and, if they don't, why, then, would many libertarians insist upon supporting "medical" marijuana? By medicalizing marijuana, the state is entrusting physicians to handle individuals' personal medical choices by their standards, mandates, and guidelines.

In the Eighteenth Century, socially deviant behavior was medicalized. Those who masturbated or engaged in sodomy against state sanction were locked up. Medical marijuana through the harm reduction movement will be no different.

Under harm reduction proposals, any number of bad behaviors should be regarded as public health problems requiring medical treatment. Good-faithed libertarians cannot endorse harm reduction because it deprives people of their liberty based upon value-judgments, not based upon concrete harms. Likewise, involuntary commitment of non-violent persons to psychiatric institutions for "treatment" is equally unacceptable on pure libertarian grounds.

The problem isn't just giving the state increased power to regulate who can and cannot have marijuana for "medical" purposes. Just as problematic is giving physicians the power to dictate whether or not we are worthy of the "medicine" they call marijuana.

Who will profit when the state takes control of "medical" marijuana? Not only will it be the state, but it will also be the very physicians who make the diagnosis. Even though they claim they're motivated by compassion, doctors, treatment center builders, and politicians are all economically addicted to medicalization efforts.

Good-faithed libertarians must wary of their call for "compassion." Doctors are not policeman and should never be trusted as such.

Harm reduction, an alternative social policy oriented towards tolerance and social integration with regards to drug users, is another movement libertarians must be wary of. The "right to treatment" model arrived in the 1960s and forms the basis of the harm reduction movement.

Modern medical marijuana pushers belong to the harm reduction movement, the primary drug reform movement pushing for more state control of private behavior -- including more state intervention and abdication of personal rights, including the right to be left alone.

Implicit in the harm reduction movement's call for control of private behavior is the move to challenge the normalcy of drug use. As libertarians, we understand that a drug is just a chemical.

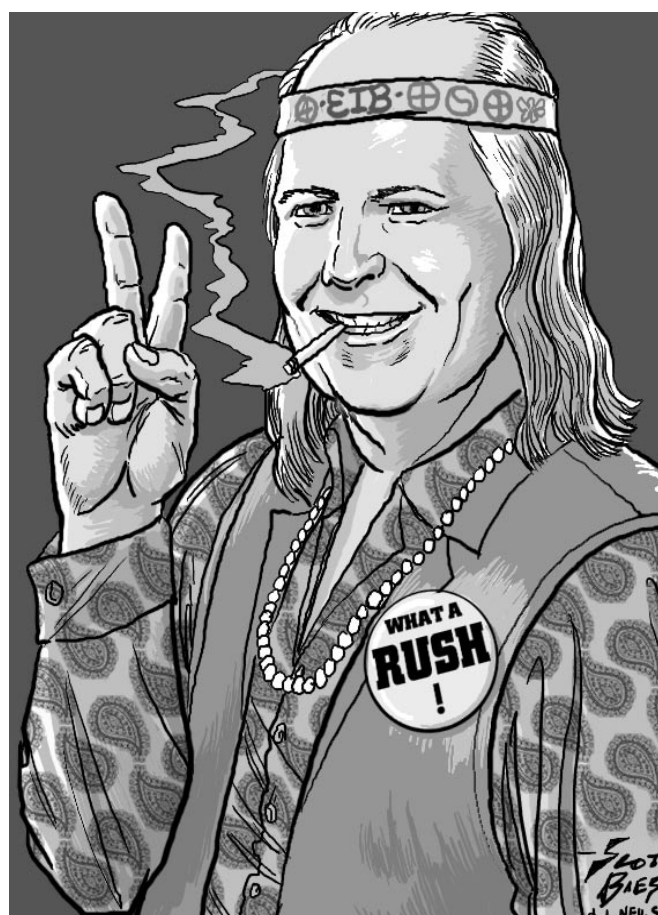
Harm reductionists don't, though. Unfortunately, the harm reduction movement questions the very sanity of individuals engaging in behavior that they consider abnormal. They then propose "treatment" to help individuals engaging in the behavior they deem problematic.

The "medical" marijuana movement, spawned by the harm reduction movement, is exactly that: A movement to treat individuals against their will by those who

stand to profit the most (physicians).

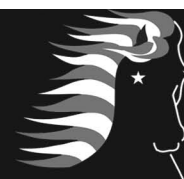
Genuine compassion is a system whereby individuals who seek help can do so on their own terms. Alcoholics with problems can seek out help voluntarily at Alcoholics Anonymous. The same should be true for those with drug abuse problems.

Libertarians should advocate legalizing all drugs without exception or excuse.

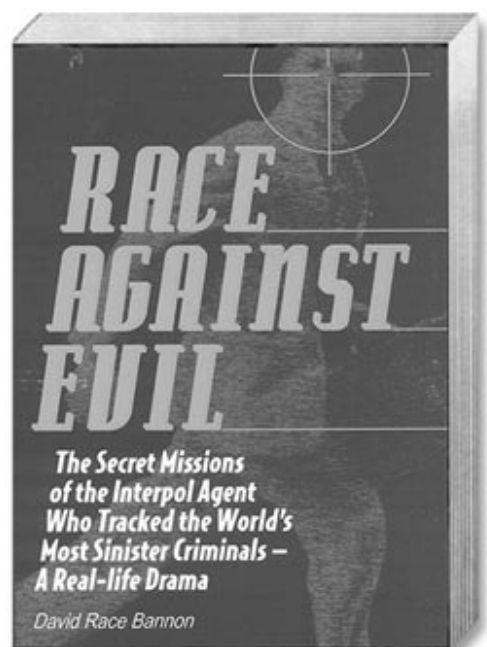


“Never soft-pedal the truth. It's seldom self-evident and almost never sells itself, because there's less sales resistance to a glib and comforting lie.”

L. Neil Smith



Interpol's Secret Army ... by Chiu Hse Yu, Ph.D. and Jason Putman continued



Kendall, who retired in 2000 – accelerated Bugarin's initiative: "If we waited until the laws were adopted, we would wait a long, long time. Unless we have the courage to step outside the usual run of the mill responses we will not achieve anything." Interpol's illicit ties were confirmed when mafia boss Bill Bonanno blandly wrote, "We had contacts in Interpol."

The United States has expressed reservations about Interpol, the world's second largest international alliance after the United Nations. In Steinberg v. Interpol (1981) the District of Columbia federal appellate court found that "Interpol appears to occupy a rather ambiguous and shadowy existence in this country. It claims not to exist in the United States, yet it disseminates information here, maintains close liaison with United States law enforcement authorities and...defames American citizens in the United States as well as elsewhere." The court took particular exception to an Interpol memorandum dated 6 June 1979, from Director John E. Ingersoll to John Warner, Chief, Strategic Intelligence Office: "The Secretariat consists of international police officers who have given up their allegiance to their individual countries for the term assigned to Interpol." The organization's Constitution and General Regulations went a step further, requiring that officers "shall neither solicit nor accept instructions from any government or authority outside the Organization."

When President Reagan signed Executive Order 12425 in 1983, giving Interpol diplomatic status and "complete immunity from prosecution in the United States," international agencies roared. The Department of Justice condemned "the secretive nature of Interpol," finding that "the development

of Interpol into a worldwide agency has not been accompanied by a concurrent expansion of Interpol's accountability." In 1989, the European Council significantly curtailed Interpol funding and condemned the organization's practices: "Interpol was above the laws of any land and not legally accountable for its acts." A weakened Interpol had its funding curtailed – and just in time.

SECRET ARMY

Eleven years earlier, in 1978, Commissioner Jacques Defferre was hunting child sex slavers from his small Paris office, a mandate covered under Interpol's loosely worded charter: "To establish and develop all institutions likely to contribute effectively to the prevention and suppression of ordinary law crimes." He watched helplessly as 900,000 children were smuggled across international borders for the sex trade each year, including nearly 10% of the missing children from the United States. Coercing, kidnapping or buying children from willing parents, smugglers used drugs and torture to force obedience, then entered them into the world market through countries where child prostitution was legal, such as Thailand, Pakistan or Romania. The resulting pornography could earn billions in profits, well worth the initial investment cost of about \$30,000 per child, some as young as 18 months old. Confronted by child slavers and terrorists that had no army, no fixed assets and no clearly defined territory, Defferre convinced his superiors that Interpol should match criminals and terrorists for wiliness, adaptability and ruthlessness. In 1979, the sub-directorate Archangel was created and given an elite training facility in La Verpillere, just outside what would become Interpol's new world headquarters in Lyon. Archangel's mission: Identify child sex slavers and eliminate them.

As the head of Archangel, Defferre (known as "Archie" to insiders) recruited agents from all walks of life: ex-military, law officers – anyone whose profile resisted conventional thinking. Even criminals. The French spymaster recruited Bannon as an Interpol undercover operative.

ACROSS THE GLOBE

Though tiny by Pentagon standards, Interpol assassination teams were planted in Asia, Europe and even the United States. Archangel cleaners worked solo or in teams of three or four. In a given month one operative might have no assignments or as many as ten.

These tactics didn't impress everyone. "All of the Interpol guys were always working undercover, but we prefer a standup fight," said Captain Henri Wolper with the French counter-terrorist Directorate of Territorial Security (DST). Wolper has known Bannon for years but hates Interpol's secret army. "They got nothing you can't find in any special forces team across the world, only without authority. So the terrorist sell kiddie porn? Leave them to the pros. Vigilantism is a crime, no matter what the justification."

Local law enforcement cooperation and subsequent Interpol supervision of the investigation by "washer/dryers" helped keep many of the assignments out of the public eye. "It's like the Firm," said Geoffrey Ries, referring to the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), known as MI6. A twenty-year veteran of the Firm, Ries reminisces about "dozens of missions" with Defferre and his Archangels. "It's in everyone's interest to keep the secret; whether for national security or disdain for the system's ability to queer it. Once it's out, the lawyers always take over, reducing all of life and death, passion, greed, courage, lust and glory to the desiccated vernacular of their trade."

Lee Hyung-jin, a 20-year veteran of the South Korean secret service, has no patience with these clandestine activities. "These people operated every day around the world," he said. "They were inserted quickly, clandestinely, without our knowledge or with it, working for or against us. It was a short trip and a direct line – from the Nazi origins of an organization that reshaped itself to fit any master – to the vigilantism of the 1980s." Lee may have a point: Defferre estimated that each of his operatives accounted for "three digits" worth of arrests or assassinations until the group was officially disbanded in 1991.

In August-September 1998, New Orleans police officer Thomas Parker worked on an Interpol-organized raid of Internet child pornographers called The Wonderland Club. "I met two of these Interpol guys, okay?" Parker said. "One was obviously an ex-con, the other some sort of psychologist doctor. We figured maybe they were CIA or whatever when it all went down." Parker and the Interpol team stormed a room of kidnappers. Four of the seven pornographers were killed. Parker's "ex-con" was Bannon, on one of his last assignments. "These guys, they don't take no prisoners," Parker told us. "They ain't legit cops, they're killers." And work-

ing for Interpol full-time had a price. The father of an 8-year-old girl that was rescued by Bannon and Parker in 1998 supported the need for Archangel, but said the work "cankers their souls."

The cost has been high. Almost all of the original 250 cleaners are dead or missing. "They rest in the arms of Michael," Defferre wrote in a letter dated 1996. "Only we few remain." He was referring to a team motto that aligned assassins with Michael the Archangel's Biblical role as a protector of children.

BETRAYAL

Interpol is not happy when one of its own talks. Michael Rose, the organization's chief press officer, released a statement that tacitly admitted he had not read Bannon's exposé but denied any knowledge of individuals recorded in it: "If the claims in Mr. Bannon's book are in fact as have been reported to Interpol, they can only be seen as deceptive and irresponsible fantasy." Last April Interpol officers were beating down the ex-agent's door in North Carolina, demanding that he recant his tale. Warring factions within Interpol used the book as a catalyst to realign power in the organization. Even such notables as Interpol Vice President of Asia, Kim Joong Kyoung, weighed in to support Bannon's condemnation of secret groups like Archangel, writing that the autobiography is filled with "a terrible sense of injustice and misery."

By May Defferre and Bannon were flying to France to find a solution with U.S. intelligence officials and Interpol. Three unidentified men confronted them in Marseilles. Defferre, 67, was killed. Bannon lived to appear at the all-important meeting, but with cracked ribs and a dislocated right knee.

Today Bannon is at peace, a church-going family man who fights for awareness of child trafficking and says that he would "reserve a circle of hell for anyone who harms innocents." In his new role as child advocate, he gives, and asks, no quarter.

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Jason Putman is a freelance writer operating out of the southeastern United States. His book, Secret Armies: The World's Elite Intelligence Forces, will be released in 2005.

If u cn rd ths, u cn gt a gd job.

by Mark Yannone

The World Data section of the 1996 Britannica Yearbook reveals that 24 countries in the Western Hemisphere—including Mexico—have workforce literacy rates at or above 90 percent.

Another nine New World nations have resident literacy rates over 80 percent. Only seven of the 40 nations in North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean have adult reading rates below 80 percent.

Six of the seven are very poor, disadvantaged countries: Haiti (53 percent literacy), Guatemala (56 percent), Nicaragua (66 percent), Belize (70 percent), Honduras (72 percent), and El Salvador (74 percent).

The other nation with an adult literacy rate below 80 percent has the most expensive public schools in the world—costing \$280 billion in 1995. Its citizens average 12 years of school attendance. Yes, what was once inconceivable has become our reality: Only six Western Hemisphere countries have

worse levels of educational achievement than the United States of America. The 1992 NALS test scores show that only 77 percent of Americans over 16 can read.

A casual (but sustained) attempt to teach a six-year-old to read will succeed in a few months, even if the teacher has no more qualifications than being literate. But our public schools can guarantee newborn-level illiteracy to almost a quarter of those over 16, even after many, many years of mandatory school attendance.

Some of them finally learn to read in prison. Others are content to get even in more subtle ways. They're the incompetent aircraft mechanics, the incompetent builders, the incompetent electricians, the incompetent medical personnel, the incompetent principals, and the incompetent soldiers. You and the 77 percent can read about their fatal mistakes every day.

“Go straight to the heart of the enemy's greatest strength. Break that and you break him. You can always mop up the flanks and stragglers later, and they may even surrender, saving you a lot of effort.”

L. Neil Smith



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The Lesser of Evils ... by Butler Shaffer continued

current Martinet-in-Chief. Congress need not observe the constitutional technicality of declaring wars: let the president usurp this role. Neither do constitutional "guarantees" of a "speedy and public trial" need to be adhered to if the government doesn't want to be so burdened. The "writ of habeas corpus," too, is just another bothersome relic standing in the way of an efficiently run police state. Comedian Jay Leno outshined most lawyers and political scientists in his assessment of the situation. Speaking of the constitution the United States was planning to impose upon the Iraqi people, Leno quipped: "let's send them ours. It served us well for two hundred years, and we're not using it anymore!"

For those who have not disabused themselves of the illusions of constitutional government, I hasten to point out that the erstwhile Soviet Union had a constitution, modeled upon the American form, complete with a bill of rights. It is at this point my listeners want to shift the topic to a "lesser of two evils" inquiry. I attended a conference – prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union – at which I had been making my point about the irrelevance of constitutions to

the maintenance of liberty. One man became quite angry with me, and accused me of equating the degree of liberty in America with that in the Soviet Union. "You're saying that Americans are just as oppressed as are the citizens of Russia or Albania," he kept shouting at me.

I was, of course, making no such comparison. When arrayed against the spectacle of such vicious regimes as Nazi Germany or Stalinist Russia, even the current Bush administration offers a freer alternative. But the "lesser of two evils" argument is like asking one to choose between lung cancer and tuberculosis, on the assumption that the latter would be preferable to the former given that more cures are available. But this is precisely the kind of intellectual trap that defenders of statism set for us, and which most of us fail to perceive. If we insist upon our liberty as an unqualified condition – instead of being content to contrast our situation with more tyrannical regimes – we would focus on the choice between lung cancer, tuberculosis, or a condition of good health.

One hears this kind of statist reasoning drooling from the lips of Bush administration defenders. Was Saddam

Hussein a tyrant? Of course he was, which was probably the Realpolitik justification for the American government having supported his regime for so many years. But so what? How does the fact that he oppressed Iraqis for decades relate to the question of whether Americans ought to tolerate expanded governmental authority over their lives?

Of course America was a freer nation than were the Soviet Union, Cuba, China, or Albania, during the Cold War years. What does this obvious fact have to do with our understanding of what it means to be free, or what conditions are necessary for the protection of our liberty? Even if America is the freest society in which to live today – in spite of the Bush-Cheney-Ashcroft-Ridge efforts to the contrary – ought that relieve us of the task of increasing our liberty by continually challenging the authority of the state? Even if we have come further than other nations along the road to a truly free society, ought we to stop along the way and admire the oppressive measures of our nation-state because, on a comparative basis, they have thus far proven less tyrannical than more vicious regimes?

If America is freer than other more

abusive regimes, that fact is not due to our ancestors having penned to parchment words with some imagined magic to restrain state power. It is due, rather, to the relatively freer states of mind and expectations of the American people. Adolph Hitler was not an aberration confined to Germany, nor was Joseph Stalin a freak of Slavic history. Each was an opportunist who, like politicians in any part of the world – America included – aspired to the exercise of as much power over people as their victims were willing to concede.

It is no more meaningful for men and women who would be free to content themselves with making choices between one brand of oppression over another than it was for earlier generations of Europeans to choose between the Leftist politics of Stalin and the Rightist politics of Hitler. Freedom has its roots in an awareness that each one of us has the power to either accept or reject the limitations others would impose upon our lives. Men and women who understand this basic truth do not, I assure you, busy themselves with measuring the differences between kings and dictators, or senators and commissars.

Computer Privacy

by Stu Krone

The world around us is changing. There is nothing new about that. The rate of change is increasing. The technology that is available to us is changing faster than almost anything else around us. This has ramifications both positive and negative. As I have said before, technology isn't evil. Technology is neutral. Government on the other hand is evil. The government is using technology today to restrict our freedom in ways that would not have been imaginable before.

It is important to stay up to date on the technology that the government is using to control our freedoms and also on the technology that we can use to preserve them. Loss of freedom occurs

in several steps. The first step is the unique identification of the subjects. The second step is the monitoring of the subjects. The third step is the restriction of action of the subjects.

If you have a driver's license, a social security card, a file at the IRS and other government contacts, they know who you are. There is actually very little you can do today in America to avoid having a number stamped on you. Technology has made tattooing of the forearm obsolete, but you certainly have a number stamped on you.

Let's talk about restricting your actions. Once the government knows who you are and what you are doing, it is relatively easy for the government

to stop you from doing anything they don't want. Want to build a machine gun? We know who you are, we know you bought a Sten gun kit and we know you bought hollow steel tubing. It's pretty easy to put one and one together and come up with crushed civil rights. Once the government knows everything about you and what you are doing, civil rights becomes a difficult situation at best.

So, where on the path to slavery can this trip be derailed? It's almost impossible to stop the government from giving you a number. Once they know everything about you, they can control you. Obviously the only way to maintain your freedom is to maintain your privacy. Privacy is an extremely important component of freedom and one which when given up results in a great loss of freedom.

The government in conjunction with the major retailers is putting a lot of time and effort into monitoring all of your actions. I've gone over different ways that you are monitored and I've even made predictions for the future. Most of these predictions have already come to pass. What can you do to minimize others intrusion into your privacy? Fortunately there are a number of things you can do.

Pay cash whenever possible. One of the ways you are tracked most extensively is through your credit and debit card purchases. If you want to have a shopper loyalty or affinity card, consider using someone else's name and address. Your credit card records don't just show what you've purchased; it shows where you bought it and exactly when. Your travel and spending habits are there for the entire world to see.

The latest development in the retail world is the implementation of RFIDs. This stands for Radio Frequency Identification. This is a small, usually cylindrical chip as small as a grain of rice or a bit larger. It is increasingly being placed in consumer products. There are new developments in semiconductor ink that are making RFIDs cheaper and harder to spot. The sticker on your computer or book can be, and frequently is an RFID. This chip will lay dormant forever and requires no power to function. It is read by a radio scanner.

Don't buy merchandise that is tagged with RFIDs. If you aren't given a choice, buy the product and smash or remove the RFIDs. If your clothing has RFIDs it would be a simple matter to track your whereabouts simply by placing scanners around the city. There is already a government project underway to place RFIDs in automobiles. Let me make this perfectly clear for you. There is absolutely no reason to put an RFID chip in an automobile other than tracking its' whereabouts.

In the early 1900's Germany conducted a census of their citizens. It was this census along with IBM's computers that made the Holocaust brutally efficient. The next time someone hands you a form, think about what information you are putting down and what it could be used for.

The government has already taken away huge portions of our privacy. You can't open a bank account without giving your life history. You can't check into a hotel or motel without showing ID. You can't fly without showing ID. It will soon be impossible to get medical care without showing ID. Fight for whatever you have left.

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L. Neil Smith



Oh Yeah, I'm an Expert on Airport Security

by Jim Sharpe - Morning Host - Newsradio 620 KTAR, Phoenix

I'm at the airport every other weekend.

Not by choice. Oh God, not by choice.

Thanks to my divorce, I walk through security at least four times a month: when I take my kids to the gate Friday afternoon and when I meet them there Sunday evening. Two times a weekend, twice a month I have to take my shoes off.

I wish I could take my legs off. If I go through Sky Harbor's Terminal 4 Security Checkpoint B, there's often a pat-down because I've got a plate in my left leg. For some reason the machines at Checkpoint C don't seem to care. So much for consistency.

One thing is consistent at Phoenix's airport. The Burger King past security is bad. Really bad. It has almost made me swear off fast food. Now that I see that on paper and realize how much I weigh, I suppose that might be a good thing.

But seriously, it's gross. It's one of those self-service deals where you can't have it your way. The food is prepared, wrapped and then put on top of a warming shelf until you come by and grab it. You take it to the cashier, who charges you the "special" price. You know, the price a monopoly on government property can charge. No 99 cent Whoppers here.

As far as weapons go, though, the Whopper is very affordable. I know it's \$3.09 (plus tax), but after sitting there with all the other pathetic Whoppers on that heating shelf for untold hours, it's capable of penetrating the cockpit door of anything Boeing can make.

That flame-broiled battering ram is scary. But not as scary as the state of airport security.

"Pretty scary," is the term U.S. Representative John Mica of Florida used in response to two new studies of how good the TSA is doing. He's chairman

of the House aviation subcommittee.

After spending billions of dollars and adding more than 50,000 federal employees, the TSA is an "unresponsive inflexible bureaucracy" (shocking!) according to a General Accounting Office study.

Another member of the committee, Oregon Rep. Peter DeFazio, said that screening hasn't improved over the last 17 years. Back then, screeners didn't detect 20 percent of the dangerous objects that undercover agents carried through checkpoints, according to the GAO report.

We have to rely on Rep. DeFazio's word (a big stretch - he's a politician) because Homeland Security Department Inspector General Clark Kent Ervin wouldn't give specific results of his report - they were classified. I'm sure for national security reasons. Or is it for someone's job security reasons?

More than 100 airports are consid-

ering a November 19 deadline to opt out of the federal security program. The problem is, the studies show that the few private screeners allowed since 9/11 did a poor job, too. In all fairness, though, Congress did order that the privately employed screeners be hired, trained, paid and tested to TSA standards. Now I understand why Congress is the opposite of Progress.

What I wish these airports could opt out of are the federal laws concerning the carrying of weapons on board aircraft - because I'd carry one. A Kel-Tec .32 with frangible ammunition. Those are the bullets that become dust when they strike anything harder than they are. Like cockpit doors. But not terrorist's chests.

It's the only way we'll ever be safe. Whoppers aren't going to cut it. The government can't do it. September 11, 2001, proved that.

The TSA is just upholding tradition.

They Pry Them from Our Cold Dead Fingers

by Sharon Harris - The Advocates for Self-Government

Once upon a time, in a land not so far away...

It's a lively community forum. A nice young woman named Jan Smith from Freeland (a tiny country tucked away somewhere in Western Europe) is telling us about how Freeland has solved many of the problems our local politicians have been struggling with. Some think our city council members could learn from Freeland's example.

"One of the problems we've dealt with quite successfully is the gun issue," Ms. Smith says. "Now remember, we're a free country like yours - we believe in individual liberty and responsibility. We certainly allow citizens to own and use firearms.

"However, we noticed that this creates several problems. Many people just don't take proper care of their guns. They don't know how to clean them, how to store them, how to make sure they are safe. Other people modify their guns in ways that are illegal or not in the best interests of the public. This poses a danger not only to themselves, but to the community.

"Some of our cleverest leaders solved that. First, we passed a law requiring that everyone care for their guns and store them properly. We instituted a massive educational campaign to stress the importance of this.

"That helped, but of course there were still people who didn't comply.

"The way we ultimately solved the problem was for the government to provide citizens with the service of taking care of their guns for them.

"We built huge buildings in every community and hired firearm experts to work there. We passed a new law requiring everyone to drop off their guns at the building closest to them every morning, and then pick them up in the early evening. Some complained this was inconvenient for them, so we created a system to pick the guns up at each home every morning and return them to the owners in the evenings.

"Having the guns all day gives our government-trained firearms experts a chance to modify those that don't comply with gun regulations, in addition to making sure they are cleaned and stored safely.

"It's a win-win. Folks really appreciate this service!

"A great side effect that we didn't anticipate was that it gives more freedom to everyone! No longer do citizens worry about what might happen to their guns if they left them at home during the day, so they can go to work or run

their errands in peace.

"They know their guns are safe and well-cared-for. And of course they appreciate not having to do the hard work of taking care of their guns themselves."

Councilman Brown interrupts with a question: "Have you encountered any problems with this system?"

"Not really." Ms. Smith pauses. "Well, some people complain that the government experts don't do a good job. Some say that their guns don't work as well as they used to, or that they prefer to take care of them themselves, for whatever reasons.

"No problem. To appease these complainers, we allow them to take their guns to private, licensed companies that provide the same service. Of course, not many people take advantage of these private services, because after all they have to PAY for them, whereas the tax-funded government service is free.

Councilman Jones: "Sounds great! This is something I think we should consider here."

I look around at the mostly conservative and libertarian crowd - who, predictably go ballistic.

"You've got to be kidding!" says a man on the front row. "You'll never see that here!" says another.

"You'll take my guns when you pry them from my cold dead fingers!" shouts a man in the back row, and soon the crowd is on its feet - echoing his statement and booing the politicians.

Whew! It's clear we won't see this sort of thing in my community any time soon.

As I nod in agreement with the crowd, I notice an image out of the corner of my eye - a bright yellow school bus is passing by the window.

And suddenly I realize that just about everyone in the room allows government workers to come every day and take away something - something far more precious than any piece of metal.

That big yellow school bus takes our children to huge government buildings where most of their waking hours are spent. Where each day begins with an invocation of loyalty to the state. Where their most treasured spiritual values and symbols are banished. Where peer pressure replaces family values. Where the truly important questions of life can't be asked, much less answered. Where pop culture surpasses the classics. Where socialism is taught - both in theory and by example. Where conformity and indoctrination are far more important

than thinking or reading...

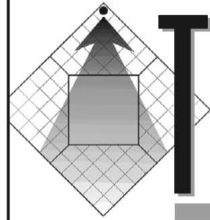
Libertarians and most conservatives boldly and nobly take a stand for our right to keep and bear arms. Not so we can go duck hunting, but so we can defend ourselves and our families from invasion. And so we can, if necessary, defend our liberty from the possibility of a tyrannical state.

But what if the tyranny we fear comes to pass - grown and nurtured in

our very homes?

Until we have equal passion for defending our children from the invasion of their MINDS - unless we take a bold and noble stand for the HYPERLINK "<http://www.sepschool.org/>" \t "_blank" separation of SCHOOL and state - we will continue to allow our children to be taken from our warm, loving arms.

The Advocates for Self-Government Offers...



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"Know, down to the last cell in your body, that the other guy started it. He's the one who put things in an ethical context where considerations like decency and mercy have no referent. The less pity moves you now, the sooner you can go back to being a nice guy."

L. Neil Smith



You can't hide your lying eyes

by Vin Suprynowicz

I see where the people of Haiti finally got sick of defrocked collectivist priest and all-around "necklace" killer Jean-Bertrand Aristide, took up arms, and kicked him out.

So what are U.S. forces doing there now? About 1,800 of our guys have been sent in to -- in the words of Associated Press reporter Paisley Dodds -- "rid the nation of guns."

Hey, good plan. In the great tradition of George Washington, Francis Marion, and young Jim Monroe, the Haitian people just used firearms to throw out a vicious tyrant, and the immediate goal of Big White Brother up north is to "rebuild a shattered police force and disarm militants who began the insurgency."

And to add insult to injury, where back in 1994 when the freedom-loving Bill Clinton sent in 20,000 troops to (start ital)install(end ital) Aristide the murderous dictator, U.S. troops at least offered to (start ital)buy(end ital) these weapons of freedom in order to better enslave the natives, this time (Mr. Dodds reports) "Haitians ... are being asked to give up their guns with little or no incentive and in a very insecure environment."

The only good news? U.S. forces, Mr. Dodds reports, have so far "recovered two shotguns. Their Chilean counterparts have confiscated three weapons."

Do you suppose maybe those black fellows aren't so stupid, after all?

We are not at war with anyone in Haiti. Washington City has no constitutional authorization whatever to spend our tax dollars sending troops into Haiti to disarm "uppity Negroes" who dared fight to win their own freedom. Also for the record, there were no organized police departments in *this*

country until the 1850s.

That's right: From 1783 until at least 1850 America was a nation of "armed insurgent militants" with no official government cops.

And how do you think the people of the proud, young, free United States of America would have reacted if some foreign army had arrived here in 1783, with the declared goal of "ridding the nation of the guns" that had just been used to win America's freedom and independence, the better to "rebuild a shattered police force and disarm militants who began the insurgency"?

Why does our Second Amendment say a well-armed citizen militia is necessary? That's right, it's "necessary to the security of a free state."

Could it be the folks in Washington don't *want* black Haiti to be truly "free"? (Washington certainly doesn't want them to prosper, or our government would allow U.S. consumers to buy the Haitians' cheaper sugar.)

After all, as early as 1785, our own Southern states were passing laws that "No slaves shall keep any arms whatever, nor pass, unless with written orders from his master or employer, or in his company, with arms from one place to another."

Whereas, in his proposed constitution for the state of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson wrote: "No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms. The strongest reason for the people to retain their right to keep and bear arms is as a last resort to protect themselves against tyranny in government."

Notice the definitive difference between "free men" ... and "slaves"?

In 1788, debating the ratification of the U.S. Constitution, a great patriot and friend of Washington named

George Mason stood in Richmond and recalled: "When the resolution of enslaving America was formed in Great Britain, the British Parliament was advised by an artful man, who was Governor of Pennsylvania, to disarm the people; that it was the best and most effectual way to enslave them; but that they should do it not openly, but weaken them, and let them sink gradually. ... I ask, who are the Militia? They consist now of the whole people, except a few public officers." And it was no less a freedom-fighter than Mohandas Gandhi who said, in 1927: "Among the many misdeeds of the British rule in India, history will look upon the act of depriving a whole nation of its arms as the blackest."

And *what* is it we're now doing in Haiti?

But this conspiracy to attack and remove the very tools of freedom is not isolated. There isn't even any Second Amendment in the new Iraqi constitution, according to World Net Daily.

In a March 10 piece bearing the sub-headline "Colin Powell hails prohibition on arms while emphasizing 'liberty,'" WND correspondent Ron Strom writes: "Iraq's new interim constitution sounds many of the same themes as the U.S. Constitution in guaranteeing freedom of the people -- with one stark difference: There is no right to keep and bear arms in the new charter."

The document does indeed promise a whole bunch of freedoms. (So did the Soviet Constitution.) But when it comes to civilian ownership of military-style arms -- which our founding fathers warned us was the last and only real safeguard of the rest of our liberties against government encroachment?

The only reference to individual

ownership of arms is in Article

17: "It shall not be permitted to possess, bear, buy, or sell arms except on licensure issued in accordance with the law."

And Article 27 further addresses the formation of militias: "Armed forces and militias not under the command structure of the Iraqi Transitional Government are prohibited, except as provided by federal law."

America's leading gun-rights organization quickly registered strong opposition to this nonsense.

"It's a very big mistake," said Erich Pratt, director of communications for Gun Owners of America. "What an interesting contrast to what our Founding Fathers thought."

"The right of people to keep and bear arms was the best check to tyranny" that America's Founding Fathers put into place, Pratt told WND.

None of this should come as any surprise, of course, Aaron Zelman's Milwaukee-based Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership recently noticed our own Naturalization folks in Washington City now require incoming citizens to study a booklet which claims our Second Amendment guarantees the right to bear arms "subject to certain reasonable restrictions." When JPFO contacted our lying federal masters to ask where in our founding documents they found this "subject to certain reasonable restrictions" language ... they received no answer

Vin Suprynowicz is assistant editorial page editor of the daily Las Vegas Review-Journal and author of the books "Send in the Waco Killers" and "The Ballad of Carl Drega." For information on his books, his monthly newsletter, or receiving his columns via e-mail, write Privacy Alert, 3172 N. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 343, Las Vegas, Nev. 89108, U.S.A.; or visit Web sites www.privacyalert.us or www.LibertyBookShop.us.

Polygamy

by John Crockett

On the border between Arizona and Utah, lies a sleepy little community called Colorado City (in Arizona) and Hildale (in Utah). About 10,000 people live there. Each day, they go to work or school, or stay home. A small percentage of them are on government assistance of one form or another.

The commercial part of town includes a restaurant, motel, and a small convenience store with a few gas pumps out front. People who live here drive 20 miles north to Hurricane, Utah for things like groceries and furniture.

There's really nothing extraordinary here that would attract anyone's attention except the spectacular views. Well, that and one other thing: Here, you'll find households with more than one woman who calls the man of the house "husband". It is this distinction that has attracted attention to the people who live here (and their antecedents) for over 100 years.

Colorado City has been in the news lately, as the governors and attorneys-general of both Arizona and Utah have vowed to "deal with the polygamy problem." On February 7th and 8th Ernest Hancock and I drove up to Colorado City/Hildale to see for ourselves what the "polygamy problem" was, and to look at the situation through libertarian eyes.

Of course, seeing through "libertarian eyes," we concentrated on initiation of force or fraud against the people who were living in this lifestyle. Were 12 year old girls being forced by their fathers into marriages to older men? Were residents being coerced by the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS) into giving up

property or other consideration? Were the women in the polygamist households slave laborers forced to be human incubators for crazed baby-making husbands? We were worried that abusive individual's subjugation of individual liberties would be used to justify state intervention against an entire religion. And we were interested in what might be the real reason.

While we were in town we spoke mainly with "apostates." Apostates are those individuals who have rejected even some small part of church teaching. Simply speaking to us would make any member of the FLDS an apostate, but these people had been branded apostate before we came along. It would be safe to say that if there were horror stories to be told...stories of child or spousal abuse, stories of dirty old men trading teenaged girls as sex objects, stories of men falling out of favor with church hierarchy and being dragged from their homes in the middle of the night...these would be the people who would tell those stories to the outside world.

Instead, as we spoke to Ross Chatwin we became more and more interested in the story from his wife's perspective. From Laurie Chatwin's perspective, the reason they had become disenchanting and finally apostate was because they had been unable to garner favor with church hierarchy and be granted a second wife! In the months prior to the trip, we had been repeatedly informed by every local news outlet, including the supposedly independent New Times that the problem was that women were being forced into unwanted plural marriages. First wives were being forced to accept second, third, etc. wives, while women who were not yet married were being forced into unwanted first marriages. Now we were hearing from one of the women who would be most profoundly affected by such a system, that the exact opposite was true. She and

her husband wanted a second wife, but the church would not give one to them! We asked Mrs. Chatwin if she had been forced to marry Ross. "No," she replied, "as a young girl, I looked forward to the day I would be sealed to a man."

We asked Laurie if her feelings were shared by other young women of the community. She told us that it was very uncommon to find young women who did not want to be given to a man and sealed in marriage when they reached marrying age (usually from 18 to 20, sometimes at 17, rarely prior to that). In fact, Laurie and Ross both told us, that it is considered wicked for men to seek marriage to a woman. Instead, the women are encouraged to "shop around" looking for husbands/households that they would consider compatible with their own skills and interests, and then to request to be placed in that house and sealed to that man in marriage.

Wow! So much for the polygamy problem. To what, then, do the governors and attorneys-general refer when they hold press conferences and boldly tell us that they intend to "crack down" on the polygamists? What will they crack down on? A woman's right to choose a husband in Colorado City?

In the FLDS belief system, a man who does not have at least 3 wives cannot enter into the highest level of heaven. Many people are horrified by this view of the nature and process of salvation. And, more significantly, they are unwilling to allow others to practice religion in ways that diverge too substantially from their own. They therefore choose to initiate force, through the agency of government, to limit the practice of beliefs they consider uncomfortable or distasteful.

What if these forces are allowed to prevail? Shortly after the slaughter of the Branch Davidians near Waco, Texas, an interesting bumper sticker appeared. I read, "Is your church BATF

approved?" The inference, that someday your church may have to pass some sort of government test for "rightness," is obvious. Apparently, the FLDS does not hold government approval for their belief system. They have quietly tried to avoid such government scrutiny for over 100 years. Apparently, the first amendment's establishment clause did not go far enough.

The founding fathers held the right to practice religion in one's own way, so dear, that when they began to write the Bill of Rights, the most important individual liberty they intended to establish protection for, was the right to express one's self in speech and faith as one felt led by one's own conscience, without interference from fellow citizens or the government. I have no doubt that at the first hint of trouble in Colorado City/Hildale, those same founders, were they alive today, would assemble, armed, at the borders of that community to defend those people from the excesses of a government that has lost touch with its roots. And the real reason? As always, it's about money.

“Remain the judge of your own actions. Never surrender that position by default. When the enemy screams “Foul!” the loudest, you know you’re doing him the most damage. Those who help him scream are also the enemy.”

L. Neil Smith



Be Ashamed ... Be Very Ashamed

by L. Neil Smith - Exclusive to The Western Libertarian Alliance

In case you have been hermetically sealed in a cave somewhere – or simply been limited exclusively to watching and listening to the whorishly “embedded” American “news” media – you may not know that the United States government has been up to some astonishingly ugly business at its military base in Guantanamo, Cuba, and in other places.

Prosecuting its undeclared and illegal war in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere, it is holding several hundred individuals captive at that base, denying them due process on the ludicrous and self-serving grounds that they are not in the United States and, therefore, the protections afforded by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights don't apply.

Nor, insists the government, do its victims deserve status under international law as prisoners of war, because they are “illegal combatants”, whatever that bit of Orwellian babble means. Some have been held there without charges or legal representation for over two years.

When I first heard, a couple of weeks ago, that the military was going to release five of its concentration camp inmates – all of those to be released happened to be British subjects -- I made two predictions.

One of them was that some kind of political or economic pressure had been brought to bear to force their release. Attitudes, ambitions, and activities of the current American government that have culminated in the brutal invasion, occupation, and oppression of two feeble Third World countries -- and demonstrably predate the events of September 11, 2001 -- are, to the immense embarrassment of the sycophantic Tony Blair regime, extremely unpopular in Great Britain, which recently witnessed the largest anti-war, anti-government demonstrations in its history.

My other prediction was that, once these released prisoners began telling us

what was going on in Cuba, what had been done to them, and is still being done to others, it would be the beginning of the end to the Guantanamo imprisonments, and possibly to the Bush Administration, itself.

Just what is being done to the Guantanamo prisoners? According to Independent Media-TV and other independent sources, Jamal Al-Harith, a 37-year-old web page designer and father of three from Manchester -- the first British national released -- says they are kept in small wire cages, exposed to the hot sun and cold rain, as well as to rats, snakes, insects, and scorpions. They are subject to frequent brutal beatings for minor offenses, torture, and systematic humiliation. He says that especially devout younger Muslims who have never seen an “unveiled” woman before are forced to watch female strippers fondle themselves, and that prisoners are told “we will kill your family and you.”

Bound tightly until their circulation is cut off, and chained to a concrete floor, prisoners are interrogated for as long as 15 hours at a time by CIA and British intelligence. They are drugged -- on one occasion, Al-Harith refused an unidentified injection and was punished for it by being beaten twice by the military police “Extreme Reaction Force”, using fists, clubs, feet, and knives, while the jackbooted thugs, in full regalia, shouted “Comply! Comply! Do not resist! Do not resist!”

They are starved when it suits their captors -- who make them watch other prisoners eat. They are fed rations ten years out of date.

“Recreation meant your legs were untied and you walked up and down a strip of gravel. They actually said that ‘You have no rights here.’

After a while, we stopped asking for human rights -- we wanted animal rights.”

I'm not going further with this right now. It is as painful and sickening to write

as it was painful and sickening to read -- in fact,

I've been putting it off for days. If you want to see more, just put “Guantanamo”+“torture” in your search engine. I must admit that, as long as I've lived, and as cynical as I've grown about government and the corruptibility of individuals when they are given life-and-death power over others, these stories disheartened me and made me sick for days.

Regarding my first prediction, we may never know why the prisoners of Guantanamo were let go. I don't believe this government would ever have released them, after holding and abusing them in clear violation of the Constitution and international rules of civilized behavior, if it hadn't somehow been compelled to. Nor are we offered a clue about who it was who put the pressure on. Looking at coverage on the Web and the Internet, groups like the UN and Amnesty International seem oddly helpless to deal with these travesties. Here in the United States, they represent perhaps the most effectively spiked news story in history.

And the Bush Administration is in court right now, trying to keep it that way by demanding the absolute power to conceal what it is doing.

Be that as it may, every individual connected with these outrages -- from the muscle at the bottom doing the dirty work, all the way up to George Bush -- should be removed from office and tried for war crimes. Members of the “Extreme Reaction Force” should be publicly hanged by the neck until dead to emphasize the fact, established at Nuremberg after World War Two, that there are some orders -- and certain animalistic impulses -- that must never be obeyed, on pain of death.

But even more repulsive than what's happening at Guantanamo (and ultimately a worse sign for our civilization) are “patriots” on the Internet -- the same kind

of low, slimy, crawling, cowardly “good Germans” and authoritarian lickspittles who pretended not to smell the stinking chimneys of Buchenwald or Belsen, or to notice the fine gray ash of human flesh settling on their doorsteps -- who not only take the side of the jackbooted thugs, but make fun of their helpless victims.

You know who you are.

Make no mistake, it is perfectly valid to ask is why we should believe Jamal Al-Harith, as other British releasees are beginning to corroborate him. I believe them because, after 57 years of being alive and looking around, they sound credible. More important, what they say was done to them -- is still being done to many others -- is entirely consistent with what I've watched this government do over those 57 years.

I believe them because, like you, I saw what happened at Waco and Ruby Ridge, and because I eventually learned the truth about the Tonkin Gulf “Incident”, Operation Keelhaul, and the murder of Gordon Kahl.

I believe because, from Paleolithic times, this is what government has been all about. It's all that government is about, or ever will be.

Three-time Prometheus Award-winner L. Neil Smith is the author of 23 books, including *The American Zone*, *Forge of Elders*, *Pallas*, *The Probability Broach*, *Hope* (with Aaron Zelman), and his collection of articles and speeches, *Lever Action*, all of which may be purchased through his website “The Webley Page” at <http://www.lneilsmith.com>.

Autographed copies may be had from the author at neil@lneilsmith.com. Neil is presently at work on *Ceres and Ares*, two sequels to his 1993 novel, *Pallas*, a decensored and electronically published version of his 1984 novel, *Tom Paine Maru*, and on *Roswell, Texas*, with Rex E. “Baloo” May. A 180-page fullcolor

National Platform Debacle

by David Euchner

I originally wrote an article called “A Tale of Two Platform Committees” which was going to appear in this space. That article was published on May 9 in Lee Wrights' e-zine, www.libertyforall.net.

However, because there is a substantial need to update, The Western Libertarian allowed me to rewrite my work and fill in the readers with the latest information I have about the LPUS platform committee.

In the last few months, I have served on two platform committees; those of the Arizona LP and the LPUS. I got on to the AZLP platform committee because I “give a damn”; AZLP allows anyone to be on a committee so long as someone is interested.

I was nominated by George Squyres and then appointed by the LNC to fill a vacancy as an alternate on the LPUS platform committee in February 2004. I promised George and Michael Dixon that, if appointed, I would open the floodgates and the world would know everything that I know and think. They told me that this was what they wanted.

On my first day as a member of the PlatComm, I created a Yahoogroup for unmoderated discussion of the platform and what was going to be done with it in Atlanta at the national convention. I encouraged all of my fellow PlatComm members to join this list, and several did.

And of course, several did not. You cannot force people to be open and honest.

Shortly after I joined the committee, I forced the issue of whether there was any intent to gut the platform and the statement of principles. The rest of the committee was content to say “It won't happen so don't worry about it.”

It's my nature to push the issue in order to expose the ugly truth. Sure enough, one member of the committee, Sam Goldstein of Indiana, intended to build support quietly for total deletion of the platform and replacing it with some wishy-washy statement that says libertarians kinda sorta believe in individual rights.

I sent e-mails far and wide to make sure everyone knew about this. Sam made a feeble attempt to deny it, but his e-mails prove his intent. And it looks like the “kill the platform” movement is dead for now. So blowing the whistle served a very valuable purpose in this case.

Nevertheless, I got many e-mails from other committee members (some of whom are also LNC members) asking me to “cool it” and to not make such big waves. But that's what I do -- I tell the truth, no matter who wants the truth suppressed. If the truth hurts, the problem is not with me, but with the people who “can't handle the truth.”

Presently, there is a critical problem with the functioning of the PlatComm. The LPUS bylaws require that there be only 20 members on the committee. But rather than find a way to include more people in discussions, the PlatComm leadership has limited the ability of “outsiders” (meaning, non-committee members) to participate.

At this time, let me say that I think the reformat project is a good idea. As all persuasive writing, the structure is but a tool to convey the ideas you choose. The reformat itself is no more capable of gutting the substance of the platform than a gun is capable of committing murder.

I see no substantial evidence that the PlatComm wants to gut the substance of the platform. In fact, on many of the planks, not a single word is being

changed. Only the sentences are being re-organized. New language is offered only where there is an obvious void in the existing plank (particularly where a principle is not stated).

But the PlatComm is malfunctioning due to a forced hierarchy.

It was decided (by whom? I don't know) that 61 planks would be assigned 3 planks each to 20 people. There was no Plan B in place for when half the committee members didn't do their homework. Nor was there Plan C for when individuals produced poor results.

As of April 30, all 61 planks had a suggested reformat and new language proposal. But only 11 out of 20 committee members voted, so at this time the number of planks that have majority support of the committee is ZERO.

Therefore, a project which should have been completed last October according to a 2002 convention resolution remains incomplete to this day (May 13).

This is embarrassing to the committee's leadership who have created these rules. Or I should say that it SHOULD be embarrassing.

I have offered short-term fixes to this problem that could get an acceptable product distributed through e-mail lists within days. My offerings fell upon deaf ears. No one seems to be interested in getting this done before the convention.

In return for offering solutions to the administrative problems of the committee, some have publicly called me dictatorial. That is fine; the truth reveals quite the opposite to be the case.

I am very sorry to have to report this, but it is the truth. The PlatComm is dysfunctional to the point that the delegates will have no idea in advance what is to be proposed at the convention. The PlatComm will finalize its work on May 25-26 and send it to the printer overnight for the delegates to review on May 27 and vote on May 28-29.

What's more, there is a possibility that the PlatComm will decide (over my objection) to roll up changes on all 61 planks in one up-or-down vote. This is ridiculous.

For these reasons and many others, I am not interested in serving on the LPUS Platform Committee in the future.



- ✓ In 1994, as the twice-elected Sheriff of Graham County, Arizona, Richard Mack challenged the “Brady Bill” in court ... and won.
- ✓ In 2002, Richard Mack joined with Nevadans to urge voters to pass Question 9 to legalize marijuana ... and lost.
- ✓ In 2004, Utah's incumbent governor overturned an initiative approved by 69% of Utah voters in 2000 to curb asset forfeiture. The Democratic challenger is a former federal prosecutor.
- ✓ On March 11, 2004, Richard Mack filed his declaration of candidacy and is running for Governor of Utah as a Libertarian.

**Richard Mack has stood with us.
Will you now stand with him?**

Yes!!! ... I want to support Richard Mack, Libertarian candidate for Governor of Utah!!!

Enclosed is my contribution (there are no contribution limits in Utah) of:

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other _____

Check enclosed made payable to: Mack for Governor

Name _____

Address _____

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