

For What It Is Worth... Liberty

By Keith S. Brown

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My brother (a staunch Republican) wrote the following email:

Subject: I thought you might be interested in this article
Date: 2/7/2006 7:36 PM
To: Chairouchu@ghg.net
I thought you might be interested in this article: Libraries as Terrorist Sanctuaries By Richard L. Cravatts Ph.D. on 07 Feb 2006 You can view it at http://www.tcsdaily.com/article.aspx?id=020706D Keith, perhaps you'll find this article interesting.

I read the article and wrote back, continuing a ongoing discussion with my brother...

People are people.

Over the millennia, we have changed but little in our attitudes. I have no great brain, but depend on the wisdom of those that have gone before.

More than 200 years ago, the British held the American Colonists in low regard. The British viewed the colonists as having three purposes in life: (a) to provide raw material for the British Empire; (b) to pay taxes to finance the Empire's military adventures; (c) and to consume the products produced by the British industrial homeland. As the World Super Power of its day, the sun never set on the far reaches of the British Empire.

Those I regard as heroes pledged their lives, their fortunes and their honor to correct abuses they viewed intolerable by a free people. When their petitions for redress were ignored, when their appeals for justice resulted in more injustice, when their liberties and freedoms as a free people were callously and continuously abused, those heroes engaged in armed insurrection against the recognized government of the day.

If they had failed, and until the last moment, failure seemed a certainty, those I regard as heroes would have been executed as rebels, traitors, conspirators and murders. They did, however, succeed.

Patrick Henry said, "*Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!*"

He did not say, "give me liberty as long as it is safe." Nor did he say, "give me liberty as long as there are no terrorists around." His declaration was an absolute.

Patrick Henry claimed, "***The Constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people, it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government -- lest it come to dominate our lives and interests.***" Yet over the years, we have stripped the Constitution of its constraints. As a result, government today is too big, too powerful, and too dangerous to the liberties of a free people. Government is a dangerous servant and a terrible master.

George Washington said, "***The marvel of all history is the patience with which men and women submit to burdens unnecessarily laid upon them by their governments.***" Our first President also said, "***It will be found an unjust and unwise jealousy to deprive a man of his natural liberty upon the supposition he may abuse it.***" Yet time and time again, our government has ignored those cautions and engaged in those actions.

With regard to government secrecy -- which is not in any sense a new concept, Thomas Jefferson said, "***Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost.***" Our third President did not kindly regard intrusions that limited our access to information: "***Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government; that whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied on to set them to rights.***"

These men and others like them were heroes. I am not.

They spat in the eye of the giant, preferring to die free than live without the freedoms and liberties essential for a free people.

I am the frog in slowly heated water. Though recently the cook has grown impatient and has turned up the heat.

Thomas Jefferson said, "***I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than to those attending too small a degree of it.***"

Amen.

And from what I consider the dark side, we have the following. Unfortunately it appears we have adopted these attitudes wholesale...

"It is true that liberty is precious; so precious that it must be carefully rationed."

--N. Lenin

"In wartime truth is so precious that she should always be attended to by a bodyguard of lies."

"If the opposition disarms, all is well and good. If it refuses to disarm, we shall disarm it ourselves."

"A single death is a tragedy; a million deaths is a statistic."

--Stalin

"COMMON GOOD BEFORE INDIVIDUAL GOOD "

The Program Of The N.S.D.A.P. : The 25 Points

--Adolf Hitler

I believe we have more to fear from a super abundance of government than from a band of frenetic foreign fanatics. The fanatics can only kill me once. Massive government has demonstrated it can do far worse.

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