

To Recall or Not To Recall*

'Advice & Consent'- That's What The Rule Book Says.

The Supreme Court, given the highest authority as arbiter of law should obviously be populated with the best and brightest minds possible. Fair play and Justice demand an unblemished moral compass, evidence of impartiality, no compelling political allegiance, or vigorous religious fervor should be allowed on a body that protects the rights of a diverse population. Right?

But our Democratic Republic is broken- There is no particularly good reason to expect otherwise. The sideshow we have recently been subjected to proves the point. The newly minted Supreme was clearly in contempt of the Senate during his latest appearance. And yet no Senator called that into question- not that a complaint to the committee leadership would have mattered much. Any other witness would have been exhorted to simply answer the questions asked of him. He must be enjoying a couple cold brewskis now. He likes beer OK?

With a classic page from the playbook of privilege- unequivocal denial prevails again. Plausible deniability aside, the fact is- an absence of evidence is not evidence of absence, and answering a question with a tirade of outrage is no answer at all. It's not hard to imagine that in the mind of a driven player if: a) There is no evidence. b) There is no witness (beyond the accuser of course.) c) Admission would lead to personal and professional destruction: **You must deny.** there is no option, and thus, you may even come believe your required belief to be true- how could it be otherwise? That would be self destructive. e.g. inconceivable.

All that aside- the side show...Democracy is dead, again. It was a nice idea back in the day- more specifically around 508 until 322 BC. less than 200 years- the ancient, short life span of true direct Democracy in the City State of Athens- from *demos* "the people" and *kratos* "force" or "power," thus literally "people power." We like to think our constituted nation is heir to this grand idea that today would be criminalized as 'mob rule.'

Before their historic reforms that led to Democracy, Athens was ruled by a series of Archons- **Chief Magistrates**, and the Areopagus, made up of ex-Archons. The members of these were generally aristocrats, who ruled for their own advantage. The Demos functionally enslaved to the rich, under the prevailing Oligarchy- of rival aristocrats. In 621 BC Draco codified a set of notoriously harsh laws that were a clear expression of the power of the aristocracy over everybody else- HMmmm, could 'Draconian' law, again be a catalyst to reform?

A population of around 30,000 Free male Citizens over 20 years old had the right to participate in the peoples assembly. The assembly had four main functions: it made executive pronouncements (decrees, such as deciding to go to war or granting citizenship to a foreigner); it elected some officials; it legislated; and it tried political crimes. As the system evolved, the last function was shifted to the law courts. The standard format was that of speakers making speeches for and against a position followed by a general vote of yes or no. Though there might be blocs of opinion, sometimes enduring, on important matters, there were no political parties and likewise no government or opposition. Citizens were paid for attending the Assembly, to ensure that even the poor could afford to take time from their work to participate in their own government. The Council of 500 represented the full-time government of Athens. It consisted of 500 citizens, 50 from each of the ten tribes, drawn by lot, who served for one year. The Council could issue decrees on its own, regarding certain matters, but its main function was to prepare the agenda for meetings of the Assembly. Participation in the Council was paid, and considered an office, it also seems to have been considered an unexceptional part of a citizen's life, rather than a part of a political career- what a concept!

Any construct of just political authority has always been an experimental response to the unjust powers of wealth and greed. And the power of wealth and greed have forever resented and resisted every reform in favor of citizen authority. Our representative democracy has achieved a sophisticated form of political experimentation that is top heavy and toppling towards the good old reliable oligarchy that has dominated history, a kinder gentler form of tyranny, while citizens become willing serfs in the feudal politics of party loyalty.

Made up rules are the only thing that makes this all real (legal?)- the rules rule, the rules have made rulers, career oligarchs that rely on the impotence of citizen outrage. Those rules have to change. Who ever changes them determines who gets what they want. If you don't like that? Well, you have options. Of course there is recourse, **the rules say: You can always go to court! Pardon me...**

[*This heading is set in the new 'sans forgetica' font- scientifically designed to increase memorization.] **-Joshua Golden**



Drones: "Emerging Threat"

Touting national security to justify spying powers that jeopardize our constitutional rights is a strategy that we have seen before. It happened with the Patriot Act after 9/11, and

members of Congress and government officials are now employing similar arguments again. This time it involves a drone bill that some in Congress have inserted into a larger piece of legislation.

According to the Homeland Security Committee's website, The House has passed an amended version of the **Preventing Emerging Threats Act of 2018** to the **Federal Aviation Agency Reauthorization Act**.

Proponents of the bill claim that it will make our country safer. But, in reality, the drone legislation will give new surveillance powers to the Trump administration to spy on journalists, activists, and other Americans without a warrant.

The sponsors of the bill state their intent is to arm the "Department of Homeland Security and the Justice Department with the ability to act quickly and effectively when a drone poses a risk to large-scale events and government facilities." This goal may be admirable, but the bill does not achieve it.

Instead, the bill empowers these agencies to spy on Americans without complying with existing US laws — including the Wiretap Act, Stored Communications Act, and the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. Generally, these laws require the government to get a warrant if they want to wiretap or access other types of stored communications. The drone bill, however, exempts DHS and DOJ from these restrictions anytime it deems a drone a "threat" to certain covered areas. The bill defined covered areas so broadly — including areas

where there may be emergency responses or federal investigations— that it will inevitably sweep in areas where media organizations have a legitimate interest in reporting.

In a June hearing, a DHS representative admitted that surveillance was a benefit of the bill. In response to questioning, David Glawe, undersecretary for the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, said that using drones "for law enforcement purposes to conduct surveillance on criminal suspects, terrorist, foreign intelligence is going to be an absolute benefit in how we develop these powers and procedures."

The bill also authorizes more than just collection of communications and other information from drones. It will also likely be interpreted to allow the agencies to hack or interfere with radio signals, without any court approval. While the agency has not specified what "counter drone" surveillance techniques it intends to purchase, we know that companies are developing and marketing products that can hijack drones, jam signals within a given area, and more.

Jamming of signals could impact the ability of individuals on the ground to use WiFi or cellular networks, jeopardizing public safety by limiting the ability of hospitals, first responders, and other medical professionals to function. Similarly, there is no guarantee that the government only hacks drones that are in fact malicious or that efforts to hijack a drone do not result in unintended consequences.

These risks are precisely why in July 2018 the **FAA** itself sent a letter to several stating that counter-drone technology was not ready for use in civil airports given the dangers it poses. Among other things, the letter noted that this technology has "safety implications," including the risk of "false positives." As a result, the technology could create greater "hazards" than it intends to mitigate. Despite these warnings, the proposed drone bill would give DHS and DOJ virtually carte blanche to use these counter-drone techniques without any judicial oversight or sufficient civil remedies in cases where individuals are harmed.

-Neema Singh Guliani
aclu.org



*If you want the rainbow,
you've got to put up with the rain.*

— Dolly Parton

Confession to the Agent

I have concealed weapons
& books you can't read
pressed roses from Algiers
sand on my black wool

with this needle I have
knotted coats & covers
I have lists of names
& I remember

In childhood I sat at your table
my hair a fused grenade
poetry a weapons belt
You gave me calendars

photos of foreign landscapes
A pretty child, my seaglass eyes
slid to buckles
& fumbled fingers, the last stain.

Watch me carefully.

I cross the borders,

~ Kathy Acker



*"Facts do not cease to exist
because they are ignored."*

~ Aldous Huxley



**Greenfuse is produced by the
Waking Dog Collective:
media active/radical remix volunteers**

Including- Joshua Golden, Paul Encimer, Shakti, Debra Carey, Tom O'Neil, Alyssa, Nezzie, Kate, The Muir's & Goats galore.

We strive for accuracy and timeliness. Please excuse any typos, or grammatical errors, you may find due to our late night pre-press session.

And yes, that's right; we may be subjective, judgmental, or opinionated!

Find us at: www.greenfuse.work
or Box 493, Redway CA 95560,
(707) 923-4488 or 298-7702

**We print an edition of 4,200
& distribute <free> through-out
N. Sonoma, Mendocino & Humboldt Counties,
All advertising goes towards printing & Distribution costs.**

Subscribing is a crap shoot. We are all unpaid volunteers and nobody really likes doing that.

\$25 or more is a suggested gamble.

We are free to prisoners upon request.

Hope for the best.