

SEATBELTS

Seatbelts is one of my pet peeves. I have been able to live with myself because Indiana always made an exception for trucks. As of July 1st of 2007, Indiana, on behalf of the federal government, intends to include these vehicles under their must use seatbelts law. They have crossed my line in the sand and now force me to choose fight or flight.

What a state!



Woodrow Wilson said,

"Liberty has never come from the government.
Liberty has always come from the subjects of it.
The history of liberty is a history of resistance."

The Carrot or the Stick?

The police should not be the instruments of social change. No citizen should be forced to modify their behavior, no matter how stupid they may be, at the end of a baton or in the sights of a gun. This is the way of tyrants and corrupt governments that we have fought since the beginning. When will the weenies stop deluding themselves, admit they're all just a bunch of weenies and beg some ruthless dictator to come rule them?

Most of our adversaries (even the people who favor forced seatbelt use) have stooped to gore to make their points. They know what weenies we are and how much we hate blood and violence and will do anything to avoid having it pay us a visit. One of my adversaries in the editorial pages, we'll call her Ms. Berger tried to paint me as someone who doesn't wear a seatbelt. She invoked her job in the trauma unit and I'm sure she has many bloody accounts of non-seatbelt wearing to recount. She would have us believe that the government has a duty to protect us from ourselves by forcing us to wear seatbelts. She infers that not wearing your seatbelt when she hits your automobile causes her greater financial damages and that she is the *true* victim. She says simply I am wrong.

I say people who are planning to make mistakes would of course want to limit their liability. Hopefully she is not planning to make mistakes at her job. Of course the argument isn't whether its safer to wear seatbelts or not. Without question, you have a better chance of surviving most automobile accidents if you are wearing a seatbelt. But, you cannot legislate stupidity out of the society. Only make it a crime to be stupid.

You know my mother counseled me against violence, said it wasn't worth it. Wasn't worth what? Is it worth living with a bunch of "afraid of their own shadows", "life extensionist", ipod listening, morons that don't know how to tie a shoe lace anymore? Enough is enough.

And does my mother mean to tell me that the police would not be using violence against someone who breaks one of their laws? What in the heck do they carry that arsenal of violence enhancers around on their belt for? Where did that famous "stop or I'll shoot" thing come from? Seems like sometimes they just don't have time to wait for a jury. But lets put them in charge of the government's social engineering programs. Let's send them after people who won't wear a seatbelt, the *true* criminals. Let's create bureaucracies like the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute to administer these social programs and aid law enforcement in rounding up these mass killers. I'd rather call the ICJI the IRD for Indiana Re-education Department. Then we can be just like China. I wonder if there's any seatbelt laws there? Probably. IRD is much easier to say and remember.

I'm not against educating people to make their own decisions. But I draw the line at capricious abuse of power. My vehicle rarely if ever crosses state lines so why does the federal government have anything to say about it anyway? We can be just like those weenies in Canada whose founding fathers were unable to tear themselves away from subjugation. They stayed under British rule for many years. Now they can't even imagine not looking to the government to tell them what to do. Socialized medicine has made them demand things from their fellow subjects and think Americans are crazy for wanting to be free to live their *own* lives as *they* see fit. So why do they keep coming here?

I recently came across a blog in which an Australian put in his two cents worth. How about those Australians? You know they did away with drivers rights a long time ago and not too long ago most of the privately held guns in the country. Seems to me they keep wanting Miss Liberty to tie her ankle to her ass and follow them down the slippery slope. G'day weenies.

NHTSA Blackmail

When was blackmail made legal? If your neighbor was blackmailing you, you wouldn't like it, right? So what makes it acceptable for the federal government to do it? Why isn't the state attorney general doing something about it? Why is there a wad of money up for grabs if we just pass a seatbelt law? Truth is we get the money anyway. The federal government gives it to us, but with strings attached. If we pass the laws they want us to, we can spend it differently and somebody wants to spend it their way, not the way we've been spending it. Who is it? I don't know. But the amount of the money has been all over the place. Sixteen million, twenty-three million, it changes with every newscast. I can only tell you that it isn't me. I'd tell the federal government where to stick their money. They actually reduce the amount of money as seatbelt use goes up. So for a while, Indiana was getting lots of money that will now start to dwindle down.

If we just want to make this a money thing. All the surrounding states, who have had seatbelt laws in place for some time, spend more money per person on accidents than Indiana. I am predicting that now that Indiana has this law, our costs will rise too. We're not talking about millions here, its billions. If this was such a good deal, you would hear the insurance companies clamoring for it. They would have paid for all the advertising to sway public opinion to seatbelt wearing. Actually previous state laws always prevented them from requiring it of their customers and they were also not allowed to use seatbelt non-wearing in determining liability claims. Is that also going to change with the new law? It is cheaper for them if people don't wear them.

It's the Law

The queen was here (in the USA) a while back and said this was a country of laws. What in the hell? Is that the point? Law for laws sake. Jeeesh! You've probably seen the, buckle up, it's the law, sign. To me there is nothing less conducive to me obeying the law than that reasoning. Just because someone was able to pass a law? What kind of America is that? If this is truly what we've become, then how did we get that way?

Thomas Paine said,

“He that would make his own liberty secure,
must guard even his enemy from opposition;
for if he violates this duty he establishes a precedent that will reach himself.”

For all of you products of recent public education. What he means is that you should have protected me in this case because sooner or later they're going to get around to taking something from you. And if you think the founding fathers couldn't predict these current events, check out what James Madison said about it,

“I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.”

Nothing fits this pattern better than the seatbelt story in Indiana.

First, make it a crime not to wear it in the front seat of passenger vehicles but don't let officers stop you just for that.

Second, let officers stop you just for that.

Third, make it a crime for persons in the back seat, and trucks not to wear them.

I think they may have skipped ahead a bit because of the success of their daylight savings time bill. But I digress. Read that rant later. Over a few years, they have systematically slipped this dead fish in to smell up our book of codes. There you go, incremental tyranny. No one big “put'em all in jail” at once thing yet. First vilify and incarcerate these goats. Then those goats. Eventually all you have are a bunch of entertained and stupid sheep. Oh, I already talked about Canada, didn't I? Kind of like that MTV generation they keep talking about. Most of them wear their seatbelts. Want to live forever or something. And also, if it isn't illegal where you come from yet, talking on your cell while driving will be. Take that weenies!

Frederick Douglass said,

“No man can put a chain about the ankle of his fellow man without at last finding the other end fastened about his own neck.”

Misguided Well Meaners

Law Enforcement Action Kit
Introduction announcement
Press release
Op Ed article
High School Outreach Materials
Roll call video
Squad Room poster
Fact sheet
Mobilization timeline
Clip art files for State use
Proclamation
State seat belt use data
Regional contact list
Mobilization progress press release

From NHTSA site

As a state legislator, if you don't have a clue how to change the public opinion about something, just ask the federal government for help. In the case of seatbelts, the NHTSA has everything you need. They employ full-time psychologists and marketing geniuses just for this purpose. Press releases, op ed articles, fact sheets, statistics, videos, you name it, your tax money has prepared it. Do you suppose any of this money filters down to these state legislators or their friends? I wouldn't go so far as to say that. Like Louis D. Brandeis, I would say,

“The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning but without understanding.”

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute was the result of a lot of this government zeal. Now that Indiana is towing the line with regard to seatbelts, what will these guys work on next? You know they're not going away, just change their mission. Last I heard they were getting a government grant to keep victims of crime updated on the status of their criminals. A twenty-four-seven operation that was funded for only a year. Next year, we'll be paying for it. It would be interesting to see what the numbers look like for this “benefit” to our state. Again, sorry, getting side tracked! Maybe they'll work on cell phone talkers, speeders, or another of the sheep's favorite pastures. What will the sheep do when they become the goats. Welcome to my world weenies.

Countermeasures

I would be remiss (stole that from one of my old bosses) if I did not try to offer some possible solutions.

First, if you think these guys sold Indiana down the river, get out and vote.

Tom Wyss didn't show up on my ballot but I did vote against David Long.

I just didn't have enough help from the rest of you. Let's get them out the next time.

And for you people in Fort Wayne, there's a couple of guys up there that don't give a damn about your happiness, but *they* are smiling from ear to ear.

Abraham Lincoln said,

“Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.”

Second, we need to find candidates that will start to undo some of the damage that's been done.

State's right'ers that think the federal government should go back to tending interstate commerce and foreign affairs.

People that believe there should be alternatives to leaving the country to find freedom.

People that will fight to bring the goats back, people will again come here to escape tyranny in the other states and bring the industry Indiana has been famous for.

After all, why would anybody come here to start new factories if this place is the same as where they are?

A lot of the people here now, came here from somewhere else. The problem is, they forgot why they left where they're from. We need candidates to shake these guys up.

Third, sharpen your knives.

Sooner or later the federal government is going to come for your guns so you can't depend on having them when you need them and you obviously can't depend on your state government.

Sheep may be timid but there's a lot of 'em.

I always get a kick out of those French farmers always taking their pitch forks down to Paris to protest. Nice and sharp.

Ben Franklin said this,

“They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

Fourth, Perpetually test the constitutionality of driving laws and the states right to suspend your drivers license for almost any reason. I view this the same way a cowboy in 1880 would have viewed stealing his horse. These guys deserve the same treatment. They setup this transportation based society and use this document as a club to beat us into submission. What a state!

Fifth, Prepare for a long fight.

The Baron de Montesquieu said,

“A nation may lose its liberties in a day and not miss them in a century.”

It will take a long time to undo what they've done.

Phyll Havens, Goat.