

Old Crows, Slimy Frogs and Federal Tyranny

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When contemplating the start of the War for American Independence most Americans think of the Boston Tea Party, the Battle of Lexington, or the Battle of Concord. Without a doubt these events heralded the beginning of America's struggle to gain and maintain its independence from the British Union. Nevertheless, these events did not spring forth like a clap of thunder on a cloudless day; they were preceded by many small events over the course of many years. The genesis of the struggle to break from the union with Great Britain began in innumerable tea houses, pubs, churches and other places where average citizens met and discussed issues of the day. The beginning of the end for the British Union in America, that is, Royal authority in America, most surely began when the common citizens of America began to question the sanity and wisdom of the laws and edicts of the King's government. When the British government began to legislate in a manner that was considered unconstitutional (was not authorized by the unwritten constitution of Great Britain) and began sending an infinite number of petty officials and agents to collect taxes and impose unpopular laws and edicts, the average citizen no longer respected Royal authority. Seeing America subjected to ridiculous laws and being subject to the authority of unelected petty political hacks was all that was needed to get the citizens of America to recognize that a change in government was needed.

The point being made here is that often the beginning of the end of a tyrannical government begins when citizens first recognize and then freely begin to condemn the acts of their government. In one sense Americans of today are not different from Americans of 1776; they are beginning to recognize the abusive and ridiculous nature of their government. Yet, unlike the Americans of 1776, modern Americans are much too tolerant of the abuses of the government. In *Why Not Freedom: Americas Revolt Against Big Government*, the Kennedy Twins (1995) wrote: "Our liberty is perishing beneath the constant growth of governmental power. Today, for example, Americans must obey thirty times as many laws as Americans at the turn of the century [20th century or 1900] had to obey. Federal bureaucrats publish an average of two hundred pages of regulations, edicts, and guidelines each working day in the *Federal Register*—rules that have the power of law that any citizen could be sent to prison for violating."¹

This was written over eighteen years ago and the Federal government has gotten more powerful and more abusive during this time. In the past year Americans have become aware of the IRS attacking political opponents of big government, NSA "keeping an eye" on American citizens they, that is, big government, says might pose a "threat" to the government, the Federal government spying on news reporters that they consider to be a threat to their power,

the office of Attorney General selling illegal guns to Mexican drug gangs, the Federal government's willingness to use drones to “take out” enemies of the government even if those so-called enemies are American citizens and the list could go on and on.

Are Americans beginning to awake to the danger of a tyrannical Federal government? It is hard to know for sure but one bright spot was noted the other day in beautiful downtown Point, Louisiana. While consuming our early morning drink of choice, coffee, tea, or cokes, a fellow citizen brought this little Federal factoid to my attention: “As described in 50 CFR Part 21 [a *Federal* regulation], non-toxic shot [steel not lead] must be used for the take of crows, blackbirds, cowbirds and grackles under the special depredation order. In addition, an annual report has to be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for those that participate in the take of these species.”² Not being content with imposing a Federal system of Health Care, the innumerable and infinite bureaucrats of an all-powerful Federal government must now tell hunters what type of shot to use to take crows and blackbirds. Then at the end of the year each hunter must file a report of said crows and blackbirds to the Federal government! Even the most politically un-savvy of our group understood that these “rules” were ridiculous and intrusive. As was quickly pointed out, the same fields and woodlands in which crows and blackbirds were shot with steel shot were being used more often to legally take game with lead shot. Also, “who in their right mind was going to keep a tally of crows and blackbirds to report to the Federal government?” It was obvious that the common sense displayed by the average citizen of Point, Louisiana, was far superior to the “wisdom” of Congress and the Federal government.

From Point we turn to the other end of the once sovereign State of Louisiana, where a land owner in St Tammany Parish has run afoul of the Federal Registry, the EPA, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It seems that fifty years ago his land was the habitat of the Mississippi Gopher Frog. The Federal government in its “wisdom” had determined to reintroduce this frog onto its ancient habitat—landowner be damned, the frogs and the Feds come first! Of course the Federal government is assuring everyone that it has no desire to disabuse the landowner of his property and everything will be done to make sure they can co-exist peacefully. Just stop and think. How much value has this man lost because his land is now under the “oversight” of the Federal government? Before any change can be made on his property, it must pass Federal scrutiny. The value of his property has been greatly reduced and he must stand and obey the edicts of the supreme Federal government.

It is now common to hear people in various parts of Louisiana comment that frogs, crows, and blackbirds have more rights than people—but this is totally missing the point. It is not the boisterous crows, slimy frogs, or numerous blackbirds that have too many “rights,” it’s the Federal government that is guilty of the abuse of power. A Federal government that cannot

be forced to respect the rights and property of the citizens of the once sovereign State *is* the problem. How did a once free people become reduced to such humble subservience to a supreme Federal government—a government that respects no limits on its power? What happened to the limits imposed upon the Federal government by the Constitution? In 1798 Thomas Jefferson, the virtual author of the Declaration of Independence, and James Madison, known as the “Father of the Constitution,” wrote the Kentucky and Virginia Resolves. In these documents they fully explain that the Federal government could not exceed the power granted to it by the States and the States had the ultimate power to judge for itself if the Federal government was acting beyond its granted authority. Going one step further these great American Founding Fathers stated that “we the people” of the sovereign States had the right to protect our liberty from an abusive Federal government—these ideas became the foundation of what was to become known as “State’s Rights.” In Jefferson’s and Madison’s day the Federal government would never tell a citizen of a sovereign State what type of shot he must use to take game or demand a “report” of such taking at the end of the year. Likewise, the Federal government would never be allowed to use a slimy frog as an excuse to disabuse a citizen of a State of his property rights. Furthermore, if the Federal government had tried to exercise such un-Constitutional power, the sovereign State would have come to the defense of its citizen (interposition), declared said edict or law of no force within the State (nullification) or if necessary, fired the Federal government (secession) and formed a new government more to its liking—one that would respect the rights and property of the citizens. In the Declaration of Independence our forefathers boldly proclaimed that a free people had the inalienable right to alter or abolish any government they considered to be tyrannical. At one time Americans understood that unless “we the people” of the sovereign States had the tools necessary to force government to act according to our will, said government would become a tyrannical government. This is why Jefferson and Madison wrote their foundational document of State’s Rights back in 1798. (For a more complete discussion of this type of government where real American freedom can survive see: *Nullification: Why and How* at www.kennedytwins.com This is a free downloadable book on the subject of reclaiming real State’s Rights.)

Americans in general and Southerners in particular once lived in a truly free government where the government feared the citizens and the citizens did not fear the government. What happened to that kind of government? The answer is in one simple word, Appomattox! The War for Southern Independence was fought by the Federal government to impose its will upon the people of once sovereign States, thus destroying *real* State’s Rights. Today States are allowed certain privileges, any of which the Federal government can cancel at will. Take for example the “privilege” of displaying the Ten Commandments in State courthouses. What is displayed in a State courthouse was once thought to be a right of the State—but ask Alabama what happens when the State Right of displaying the Ten Commandments comes in conflict with Federal desires. You see, Rights are permanent, enduring, and everlasting; whereas,

privileges can be revoked by a superior power at its will. Today, we live in a nation where our masters in Washington will decide all types of issues, most of which are far more important than shooting crows or the particulars of frog habitats. One can only hope that the wisdom displayed early that morning in Point, Louisiana is the harbinger of greater things to come. For if enough Americans in general and Southerners in particular begin to understand just how ridiculous and tyrannical the Federal Empire has become, there is hope that the Empire of the Federals will come to the same end as the Empire of Great Britain in 1776.

¹ James R. Kennedy and Walter D. Kennedy, *Why Not Freedom: America's Revolt Against Big Government*, (Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, La.: 1995), p. 65.

² *Louisiana Hunting Regulations 2013-2014*, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Baton Rouge, La., p. 27.