

# Insanity from the eye of the newt

It must be the water in D.C. I refuse to believe that anyone sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United State could conjure up H.R. 4079 without something nefarious impinging on the fringe of sanity. The Bill's principal sponsor, Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), added insult to injury by introducing the damned thing on George Washington's birthday.

The proposed law is 96 pages long and contains nothing to worry about if you are a history buff. Should it and its U.S. Senate clone pass, I strongly suggest you by stock in companies making jackboots and black polish. Then, get set to re-live the Nazi Germany of bad movies and your worst nightmare.

**Back to the Future:** the bill authorizes the secretary of defense, the Commission on Alternative Utilization of Military Facilities and the Director of Prisons to "examine the feasibility of using temporary facilities for housing prisoners with specific examination of the successful use of tent housing during the mobilization for World War II." We were pretty good at that kind of stuff, especially if you happened to be a U.S. "Jap." We put the dirty slant-eyed traitors in tent city "relocation centers," while decrying Adolf Hitler's as concentration camps.

**Just Trying to Make a Buck:** The bill gives substantial authorization for private companies to operate these prisons, to put all prisoners to work and make a profit. A more cynical reader might see a blueprint for slave labor. Remember, the definition of fascism is dictatorship which leaves the means of production in the hands of private industry while doing all it can to help. Welcome to softshoe fascism.

21st Century Personnel Management:



**ANDREW BARBANO**

In order to compete in a global market, you gotta have cheap labor. The cheapest cost would be \$0.00 per hour, about the going price of a prisoner. How to create all the convicts necessary? Glad you asked.

**Robbing for Big Bucks with the Bogeyman :** Without the Russians to kick around anymore, we had to invent a new straw man to fear. Without such fearmongering, much of the federal government has no reason to exist. Drugs will do just fine, thank you.

**A Spoonful of Publicity Helps the Medicine Go Down:** OK, now we've got the enemy, but we've still got to create wartime conditions, a siege mentality. Easy. A few months ago, a poll showed that 52 percent of the American public would be willing to lose some constitutional rights to win the war on drugs. Gingrich's National Drug and Crime Emergency Act followed in short order.

**Writs Crackers:** Writs of habeas corpus make life too hard on prosecutors, so make writs harder to get. Why should the government have to show it has any evidence to accuse you of crime? The fourth amendment prohibiting unreasonable search and seizure is another pain in prosecutorial posteriors. Write a law authorizing just about every search, and making illegally-obtained evidence more admissible in court. Hell, this is war, and war is hell.

**Eightball War Powers Act:** The Eighth Amendment is really bothersome. Many judges agree with prisoners that human sadism cans constitute cruel and unusual punishment. It's hard to give people five years for passing a joint if we have all these wimpy judges complaining of overcrowded prisons. Screw the Eighth Amendment, water it down till 1995.

**Trickle-Down Economics:** Mandate drug tests for brad classes of funds if states don't comply. Immediately confiscate the property of the accused. Make it hard to hire a lawyer. Make people prove they legally obtained all their property, or forfeit it to Uncle Sam.

**Crystal Balls, Brass Balls and Brass Knuckles:** Evaluate "the judicial accuracy of forecasting future responsible and lawful behavior by those whom the (federal judges) sentence." Make it hard for them to earn an honest living. Result: more crime to pay for drugs.

**And why not:** Crime and drugs are our two biggest growth industries. Most major U.S. banks would fail if drug profits stopped propping up banana republic debt payments. Speaking of payments, has anyone analyzed the cost of this enlightened program. Nope. The bill provides a blank check. One Libertarian party estimate came in at \$3 trillion and 30,000,000 prisoners.

**Bottom Line:** A sub-society of millions of hopeless worker drones, slave of the many to enrich the few.

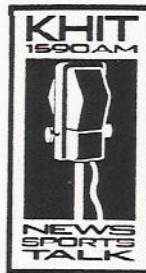
So who's behind this doodad besides Newt the Fruit? The usual suspects: Sens Orrin Hatch, Strom Thurmond, Jesse Helms and savings and loan savior John McCain, among others. Representatives Henry Hyde, Robert Dornan, convicted teenage wench fancier Buzz Lukens and Fred (Love Boat) Grandy, who did such a sterling job trying to kill the parental leave bill. Plus several dozen more Republicans.

Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe they really have good intentions.

If so, this thing is loaded with paving stones for the road to hell and should be dispatched threto forthwith.

You can get your own copy of H.R. 4079 by calling the House document room at (202) 225-3456. You can't call the senate. You must request S. 2245 in writing form the Senate document room, B04 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510. Or call your favorite senator for help. Do it. Get several copies. They're free, and scarier than reading Stephen King.

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