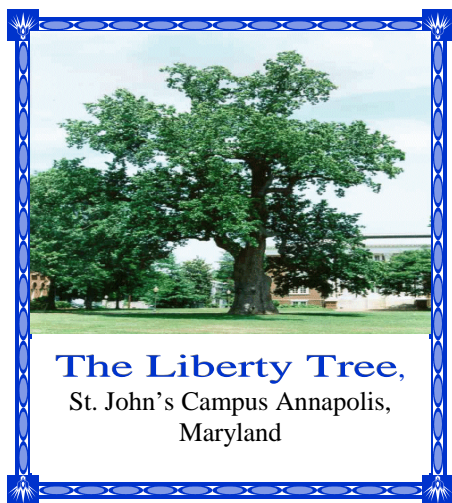


# LIBERTY TREE

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## “Ignorant and Free, Shall never be!”

(Motto on SAPF T-shirts)



Commentary by Jim Kerr

**A**s many of our readers are aware, the U.S. Department of Justice is trying to silence the political speech of Save-A-Patriot Fellowship, so as to further encroach on this most fundamental right. It is by the piecemeal process of judicial legislation that this attack on our First Amendment guarantee is taking place; yet this effort to curtail free speech is probably premature, for it is likely too great a leap at this time. Indeed, Justice Brandeis, in his concurring opinion in *Whitney v. California*, 274 U.S. 357, 375 (1927), puts the freedom of speech into proper perspective:

*“Those who won our independence ... believed that freedom to think as you will and to speak as you think are means indispensable to the discovery and spread of political truth; that without free speech and assembly discussion would be futile; that with them, discussion affords ordinarily adequate protection against the dissemination of noxious doctrine; that the greatest menace to freedom is an inert people; that public discussion is a political duty; and that this should be a fundamental principle of the American government. They recognized the risks to which all human institutions are subject. But they knew that order cannot be secured merely through fear of punishment for its infraction; that it is hazardous to discourage thought, hope and imagination; that fear breeds repression; that repression breeds hate; that hate menaces stable government; that the path of safety lies in the opportunity to discuss freely supposed grievances and proposed*

*remedies; and that the fitting remedy for evil counsels is good ones. Believing in the power of reason as applied through public discussion, they eschewed silence coerced by law—the argument of force in its worst form. Recognizing the occasional tyrannies of governing majorities, they amended the Constitution so that free speech and assembly should be guaranteed.”*

I thank the Lord that as I write this article, our free speech, political or otherwise, remains mostly intact. However, this is not the result of the generosity or good will of those who tirelessly labor to make our great



Free Hungary Radio, circa 1956.

republic a total police state. In George Orwell's book *1984*, “thought crime” was taken very seriously, for their government was a house of cards. To the extent that our government deviates from the Constitution, it is too. Liberty is the ordained civil design of our Creator. Deviation from this ordinance is sin, and there are consequences, including war and peace cycles. This sinful deviation invariably results in instability which causes anti-libertarians in positions of power to fear free speech, just as cockroaches fear the light. And for good reason, for it is *thinking as you will and speaking as you think* that inevitably brings down the “house of cards.” They are more scared now than ever, for times are changing!

Of course, King George III was deeply troubled by free political speech, but the problem was not as great, since the means of disseminating it was limited. They

licensed preachers (a license is permission to do that which is illegal, or declared so, giving rise to regulation), and unlicensed preachers could be jailed, flogged or put to death. Because mass communication was still a primitive technology, speech was more easily regulated. Consequently, those disseminating unapproved political speech put themselves at great risk by resisting tyranny. Among the very brave men who resisted England was John Witherspoon, “Preacher of Sedition”; he was the only clergyman of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence. He was no milquetoast preacher like the majority of preachers today; he put himself at great risk preaching the cause of liberty.

England had many troops and warships on our shores, yet none of England’s enemies were here. Does this remind you of Homeland Security? These situations are quite parallel, for “There is nothing new under the sun.” So Patrick Henry’s statements are as relevant today as then: “They tell us, sir, that we are weak; unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard [or Homeland Security] shall be stationed in every house?” Pastor Witherspoon’s response to this fundamental question, with respect to the American Revolution was, “In my judgment it is not only ripe for the measure, but in danger of becoming rotten for the want of it.

Naturally, King George III wouldn’t have any of this “independence” business, and went to war against the united Colonies, both to serve England’s economic interests, and resist the colonists’ efforts to secure the liberties the Creator gave them and us. The odds were phenomenally against us—it is said only 5 percent of the people supported our cause—so it is obvious that it was Divine Providence that resulted in our victory. The cost in lives and property was staggering. For example five of the signers of the Declaration were captured, tortured, and put to death. Many wealthy men lost everything. Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He

served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward. Books have been written about these sacrifices. You can read more about this at [www.freerepublic.com/forum/a37e7c1773ae8.htm](http://www.freerepublic.com/forum/a37e7c1773ae8.htm).

Regrettably, we don’t have as much liberty today as the colonists did under King George; his yoke was much lighter than ours in America today. Family life has been largely ruined, for it is no longer enough that the husband works to support the family. Today, the burden of socialism and all that goes with it makes it necessary for the wife to go to work to fund this perversion, while the children are left in the care of government schools to indoctrinate them in the ways of sin.

HOWEVER, we have reason to be optimistic. We don’t have to make the costly sacrifices the Founders and Framers of this great republic did—at least not at this time. Our greatest enemies are ourselves, and our blindness or tolerance to tyranny—and this arises from carefully cultivated IGNORANCE. Fortunately, while stupidity is forever, ignorance come by honestly *can* be cured.

In my office, I attempt to dispel ignorance (when the need arises) one person at a time. With a medium such as radio and television, we can do this *en masse*. That is why mainstream media moguls so jealously monopolize and guard the media, and why conservative talk shows still do not reveal the full truth. On the other hand, patriots on short-wave radio are not reaching the mainstreamed, uninformed masses.

A poignant example of how crucial control of the media is may be found in the historical events of the Hungarian Revolt of 1956. Those participating in the revolt had a list of demands, which included ending reparations payments to the Soviet Union, restoration of Hungary’s national emblem, and destruction of a giant statue of Stalin in Budapest square. The people were weary of Communist tyranny, resulting in Russia sending in many tanks and troops. When push came to shove, do you think Russia’s primary target was the

*(Continued on page 3)*

“There are persons, too, who see not the full extent of the evil which threatens them; they solace themselves with hopes that the enemy, if he succeed, will be merciful. It is the madness of folly, to expect mercy from those who have refused to do justice; and even mercy, where conquest is the object, is only a trick of war; the cunning of the fox is as murderous as the violence of the wolf, and we ought to guard equally against both.”

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, Dec. 23, 1776

## NOTICE

The offer of *From Freedom to Fascism* and *The Truth Behind the Income Tax* together is no longer available. However, *The Truth Behind the Income Tax* is still available by itself, for the reasonable price of 7 FRNS ppd.

(Continued from page 2)

parliament building, or some other strategic location? No; they went for the radio station that had been occupied by the revolutionaries. As the Russian troops stormed the station, the famous unanswered radio plea for help ended with the sound of machine gun fire, followed by static. To many, it was like hearing a whole nation die. While tragic, this event demonstrates the importance of our own medium to disseminate the cause of liberty; an uncontrolled outreach to *We the People*, to disseminate the unadulterated history of our times and the events of the day and to discuss their meaning, as well as actual solutions to our problems. This can be done here in America without any bloodshed, thanks to modern technology. Yes, we libertarians have access to the same technology the enemies of liberty do. That includes the Internet, satellites, “translators” (inexpensive FM broadcast units placed at pre-existing radio towers) that allow us to disseminate the word of liberty throughout the world. Storming a radio station with machine guns and tanks is not that difficult. But blowing up satellites or confiscating radios is not practical. Once we get our own libertarian media in place, we will not be able to be silenced. This can be accomplished with no violence or bloodshed, but there still is a cost—the cost of putting aside our libertarian individuality and working together to make this possible.

If the Patriot community will come together and join in the Fellowship’s effort to re-establish the radio network, they will gain, not lose from it. Those Patriot groups that join to form a bandwagon will be part of the network and

their individual organizations will grow more rapidly because of their radio presences.

There have been several efforts to bring about cooperation between Patriot organizations, but they usually fail because of attempts by some involved, to personally gain from the effort. Our latest effort gives Patriot organizations the ability, not only to educate Americans about the truth of our situation, but to expand their individual means to combat this sedition. Because everybody has their own idea of how to accomplish our quest to reestablish our Rights under the Law, the result would be the growth of all the Patriot organizations that take advantage of this radio network effort. The cost to the Fellowship member is minimal—to support the Fellowship, no matter what the outcome of the DOJ/IRS injunction action, making sure the radio network is up and running. This could be as little as 20 FRNs a month—a small price for what there is to be gained.

The Republican debates show us how transparent and shameless the media are in squelching the truth. Giuliani, Romney, McCain, *et al.* just love us to pieces and want to save us. And Hillary? All her tyranny is “*for the Children.*” Ron Paul, the leader of the Republican debate polls? “*Who’s he?*” It is a pity that so many people lap up all this mainstream media drivel, due to ignorance come by honestly; and that so much important news and information is withheld from us. Let’s work together to cure that now, while we still can; for it is a truism that

***“Ignorant and Free, Shall Never Be!”***

Yes, this is doable—but for a limited time only.



## WHO SAID IT?

“I regard the [income] tax as the one of all others most obnoxious to the genius of our people, being inquisitorial in its nature, and dragging into public view and exposition of the most private pecuniary affairs of the citizen.

“Such an unwilling exposition can only be compulsorily effected through the maintenance of the most expensive machinery; and both the nature of the tax and the means necessarily employed for its enforcement appear to be regarded by the better class of citizens with more and more disfavor from year to year.”

Was it Irwin Schiff, at one of his tax protester seminars? NO.

How about Congressman Ron Paul, 2008 Republican presidential candidate, in one of his debate appearances? NO again, but getting closer.

Could it possibly be General A. Pleasonton, 1871 Commissioner of Internal Revenue? BINGO!!! General Pleasonton was expressing the above conclusions in his letter to the Honorable Samuel Hooper, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee concerning the repeal of the income tax. That letter, dated January 20, 1871, is H.Misc.Doc. No. 51, 41<sup>st</sup> Cong., 3<sup>rd</sup> Sess.



## ***Democracy in Action: The trial of Socrates***

The trial of Socrates took place in 399 BC when he was nearly 70. The charges were that he refused to recognize the official gods of the state, that he introduced new gods and that he corrupted the young. In 404, five years before the trial, a 27-year war between Athens and Sparta had ended in the defeat of Athens. The Athenian democracy was overthrown and replaced by a group of men, subsequently known as the Thirty Tyrants, installed by Sparta. In the course of earning their name, the Tyrants killed so many citizens that they lasted for only a year, though it was not until 401 that democracy was fully reinstated. The power of the democrats was still tenuous in 399. The state alone determined what idols were acceptable; it had its own procedures for the official recognition of gods; and anyone who ignored them was in effect challenging the legitimacy of the democratic state. This is what Socrates was up against when he faced the 500 Athenian citizens who were to judge him.

Plato was at the trial. The Apology of Socrates, which he wrote a few years afterwards, relates the course of the trial. It appears that Socrates' arguments persuaded few. Furthermore, his judges were already prejudiced against him by the slanders of Aristophanes. Socrates was found guilty.

During the sentencing phase of the trial, it appears that he succeeded in annoying the jurors when he said that he thought he was doing the Athenians "*the greatest possible service*" in showing them the errors of their ways. This was at a stage of the proceedings when he was required to argue for a suitable penalty, to counter the prosecution's proposal that he be put to death. He stated that what he actually deserved for doing the Athenians such a service, was not a punishment but a reward. He suggests free meals for life at the expense of the state. Spoken like a democrat! Such an honor was usually reserved for those such as victors at the Olympic games; he earned it even more than they had, he said, because "*these people give you the semblance of success, but I give you the reality.*" He ended this part of the speech by suggesting a fine instead, at the instigation of Plato and other friends who offered to pay it for him.

But the Athenians apparently lost their patience. They voted for the death penalty by a larger majority than that by which they had found him guilty. This means that some of them, having previously found him innocent, were so offended by his cheek that they either changed their minds or else decided to kill him anyway. So, while Socrates did receive a free meal, it took the form of a serving of hemlock.

How like a democracy.

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