

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

January—February, 2012 ☆ Vol. 22, Number 01

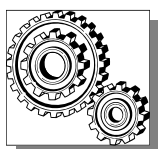
Inside

Foreign Law and the U.S. Constitution

There is a move today to let foreign law influence our laws. What does our Constitution say about that?

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If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website (see back page)



In the Works

Sharia Law in the United States. Can it Happen?

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact CAM at 372-6442.

Will the Real Vermonters Please Stand Up?

By
Marion Clegg

The United States of America is the land of the free and the home of the brave. Is it naive to expect that U.S. citizens in each and every state in the United States should recognize and support that concept in their home state as well? Does Vermont's past history show that this state is also the land of the free and the home of the brave? I think we could all agree on that. Brave Vermont men and women have died to keep our nation and our state that way. Visit the cemeteries in Vermont where the fallen were laid to rest. Our fathers and grandfathers who died in wars such as Korea, World War II and Vietnam (and others) would tell people with a different agenda to leave this state alone --- to do nothing to make their sacrifice in vain. They all took oaths to support and defend the Constitution.

How then did a small group of committed leftists and progressives take over Vermont? Not all that long ago, during the legislative struggle over the issue of civil unions, I can remem-

ber seeing signs all over the place that said "Take Back Vermont". If there was ever another time to say that again, it is the present.

Now for some history. Back in 1972 there was an article tucked away in the April issue of *Playboy* magazine called "Taking Over Vermont". Since most Christians do not read that magazine, we all missed it. Richard Pollak, the author of the essay, called for a counter-cultural revolution in Vermont that would change the state from the conservative, rock-ribbed independent group of "live and let live" people Vermonters were famous for being, to a state that was to become the testing ground for a counter-cultural experiment (his own words).



Here are some direct quotes taken from the article. This is by no means all, but space does not allow for the reprinting of the entire article. Pollak opened the article with the following statement:

"Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy. Its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery."

Winston Churchill

“Get 225,000 counterculturists to settle in the green mountain state and exercise their franchise --- and you have begun a unique social experiment.”

He went on to say:

“Suppose the nation’s alienated young decided to stage a takeover of Vermont. Not by staging a weekend rock festival at Rutland and then hanging around the Green Mountains like freaked-out trolls. Not by lacing the water supply with assorted chemical brain scramblers. Not even by trashing the 14-kt. gold-leaf dome off the Statehouse in Montpelier. Suppose they decided to do it by the book, within the system, the hard-hat-approved American way --- by ballot.”

Pollak then explains some of the math that he argues could make this possible: “Consider the arithmetic,” he says. “The 1970 census counts 444,732 bona-fide residents of Vermont. Of that number, only 287,575 are 18 years old or over and thus eligible by state law to vote in state and local elections. Since 107,527 of

these are between the ages of 18 and 34 and . . . one third of them (35,806) would be likely to [welcome] all incoming pilgrims, the potential enemy strength is reduced to 250,000. Lop off another ten or so percent for those good citizens who wouldn’t bother to exercise their franchise, even at the prospect of a Yippee governor, and the numerical tipping point comes down to 225,000, give or take a Yankee. Hardly a boggling number in a country whose mobile counterculture routinely mustered twice that and more for peace rallies and musical be-ins of the late sixties, and whose 18-34 aged population now totals more than 40,000,000, the majority within an easy hitchhike of what the VT tourist office likes to call ‘the beckoning country.’ ”

Pollak then goes on to cite a little-noticed document written by James F. Blumstein and James Phelan, two young visionaries out of Yale Law School. They wrote: “What we advocate is the migration of large numbers of people to a single state for the express pur-

pose of effecting the peaceful political take-over of that state through the elective process.”

This entire *Playboy* article, which filled six pages when reprinted, laid the foundation of Vermont’s radical change of direction -- dare I say the destruction of our former conservative values? Does this give you enough of an idea of what was planned? These were not simply empty words. There was at least one meeting of the architects of this plan at Goddard College shortly thereafter to formulate the strategy for carrying out this plan. Do you think it is too far-fetched to believe that the leftward march in Vermont during the past 40 years was by accident? Has the character of the state changed dramatically purely by chance? Have many people moved into the state from more liberal states? Having said this, I hasten to add that although there were those who came to Vermont having their own agenda, there have been others who have moved to Vermont and have blended in with the Vermont of old, not taking away from this grand State,

but coming here for the state’s ongoing beauty, and the tranquility once found here.

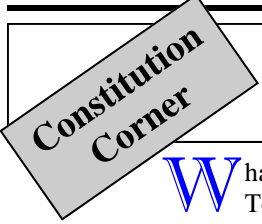
How did Vermonters react to the article’s proposal? We did exactly as they predicted. We sat back, minded our own business, and lived to see Vermont become one of the most liberal states in the nation. In doing so, we have allowed our children and grandchildren to inhabit and inherit the least religious state in the nation. We are now a state where same-sex “marriage” is legal, where abortion laws are the most liberal in the nation, where only 42 percent of the citizens consider religion important, where we have elected and re-elected the only openly-declared socialist to the U.S. Senate, where a state takeover of the entire healthcare system has been legislated, and where we will once again have to fight against the passage of doctor-prescribed death legislation (physician-assisted suicide). Something to think about --- and not proudly.

Marion Clegg attends Hunger Mountain Christian Assembly in Waterbury Center



“. . .the Soviet Union's pursuit of giantism, which destroyed small government and small business and increased the power of the centralized state . . . proved disastrous. Alexander Solzhenitsyn reacted against such evil in the direction of common sense, seeking the restoration of strong local government and the revitalization of small business . . .”

Biographer Joseph Pearce, author of Solzhenitsyn: A Soul in Exile



Constitution
Corner

Foreign Law and the U.S. Constitution

By
Lauston Stephens

What do William Blackstone, John Locke and Baron Montesquieu have in common? It is *not* their politics. As a Tory, Blackstone voted against the repeal of the Stamp Act and probably would not have approved of American independence. Locke is known as the Father of Liberalism. Montesquieu's writings were on the Index of Banned Books, so he might be labeled as a radical. Yet, what they have in common is they were all Europeans who are recognized influences on the writings and thinking of a number of the Founding Fathers of this country. Do we have a problem with that?

The Founders were faced with an extraordinary challenge: how to form a government, "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them . . ." (*Declaration of Independence*).

"Where there is no counsel, plans fail; But in a multitude of counselors they are established." (*Proverbs 15:22 WEB*)

Blackstone is still cited several times a year in Supreme Court decisions. Locke advocated religious toleration. Montesquieu was a prominent advocate of separate branches of government. Our Founders did well to hear out different voices from over seas.

In our day, several Supreme Court justices are giving ear to foreign legal trends. More than this, references to foreign law have found their way into written court decisions. Do we have a problem with this?

Consider what these have in common: John Paul Stevens writing on *Atkins v. Virginia* (2002), Anthony Kennedy on *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003), Elena Kagan's role in replacing Constitutional Law with International Law in the curriculum of Harvard Law School (2006), Ruth Bader Ginsburg's remark, "American hostility to the consideration of foreign law is a passing phase." (Ohio State symposium, 2009). In these examples, the common thread *is* their politics. Although Justice Kennedy is now viewed as the swing vote on the court, in the *Lawrence* ruling, he voted with the left-leaning Justices that are keen on foreign law.


Laws of other countries become part of cases involving treaties or international business. This is to be expected. Setting that aside, let's just ask, "What is the effect of this trend?" Take the *Atkins* case, in which the majority ruled that the death penalty was "cruel and unusual punishment" for the mentally deficient. An amicus brief, "friend of the court" letter, from the European Union was cited in the majority ruling. This amounts to the Supreme Court aligning us with certain countries and, thereby, placing us at odds with other countries. This is not "legislating from the bench," the Judiciary encroaching upon the domain of the Legislative branch of government. It encroaches more on both the Executive and Legislative branches, since the Executive branch is charged with forming treaties and alliances with other governments with the advice and consent of the Senate. We might all very well want to be aligned with countries that don't require the same consequences for the mentally deficient and we might all be content to be at odds with less merciful countries. That is not the point. It is not the place of the court to make those alignments.

The long term effect of only leftist Justices looking to foreign law is obvious. They will only look to laws with which they are sympathetic and whenever theirs is the majority decision, this country will be a little bit more conformed to the countries of their choosing. With nearly 200 members of the U.N., every ruling of our courts is likely to be similar to laws or rulings of at least one other country. In that, we must not play favorites or see which way the wind is blowing. Let the chips fall where they may. In private deliberations, our judges, as all other Americans, can read anything they want. But, if there is not judicial restraint in refraining from deferring to or even citing foreign law, our courts are diminished. The Constitution is what establishes our court system. If judges diminish the source of their own authority, they diminish themselves, the court and the country.

As Christians, we can't help but note what part of the world is being looked to by members of our courts. Many expect the last dictator to arise from that part of the world.

"For the mystery of lawlessness already works. Only there is one who restrains now, until he is taken out of the way. Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will kill with the breath of his mouth, and bring to nothing by the brightness of his coming; even he whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deception of wickedness for those who are being lost, because they didn't receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved." (*2 Thessalonians 2:7-10 WEB*)

Lauston Stephens is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Roadside Assembly of God in Rutland, VT



" . . . This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States, which shall be made in Pursuance thereof, and all Treaties made , or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land, and the judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding . . ."
Article VI, U. S. Constitution

What can I do?



Faith without works is dead James 2:17

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www.christianactionministry.com

Would you pass the citizenship test?

To become a naturalized citizen of the United States a legal immigrant has to pass a civics test on facts about the U.S. with questions taken from a 100-question pool. Would a person born in the United States and a citizen by birth be able to do this as well? In a following issue, we will pose some or all of those questions to you, so you can see how you would fare.

For now, can you answer these three questions about the United States that are found in the test pool?

What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?

When was the U.S. Constitution written?

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

If you can't answer these, it is time for you to find out.

Louisiana Territory, 1787, Thomas Jefferson

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Next Meetings

January 10, 7:00 pm No. Ave. Alliance Church Burlington, Vt. February 21, 7:00 pm Parkinson home Hinesburg, Vt.

Making A Difference in Vermont!



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