

It is a Good Day for Liberty.

Smithsonian Folkways is a part of the Smithsonian Institute, America's Museum. I notice that they have many albums of protest music. As a member of one of the great protest movements of our time I cannot object. However much of this music is decidedly left-wing. This is part of our history and should be preserved. We preserve unpleasant images of the "late unpleasantness" in our history. I notice that Smithsonian Folkways does not feature songs of that period, of either side.

With all the music greats on the NRA Board we still do not have a collection of gun rights songs. We could follow an old American tradition of putting new words to old songs. The Star-Spangled Banner was put to an old drinking song; very American. We could put our own words to a commercial jingle, the MacDonald's commercial for example.

I've noticed that feral cats are dangerous, feral dogs are dangerous, feral hogs are dangerous. They are more dangerous than species that originated in the wild. Perhaps contact with humans' generations ago makes them not afraid of us, and perhaps a little angry at us. There are feral humans as well, no human connection but a residual hatred. That why we own guns.

The NRA bankruptcy continues. It appears that the plan is not to move the headquarters to Texas, only the charter. There have been counter-filings. The New York state attorney general filed to dismiss based on a statement from the NRA that it has never been in better financial condition. The NRA statement may be just propaganda. Financial condition is an accounting trick. There have been proposals to move the NRA charter from New York State before. In the book "Inside the NRA" Joshua Powell says that it was not done before because, he says, we could not take the NRA logo and other symbols with us. This is the sort of statement which begs for explanation; but he does not. So far, the bankruptcy progresses. If it gets the NRA out of New York, that would be great. There is also a motion by a former Director to appoint an examiner to look at the NRA's accounts and operation. This will be of value to the membership.

"Inside the NRA" has been touted as the ultimate revelation. The author claims to be pro-gun. He gives a good defense of semi-automatic weapons. But says that we must compromise. He repeatedly states that the NRA must "go back" to its original purpose of a sporting and marksmanship organization. He also says that no program ever begun by the NRA has ever been ended. He says that Wayne's statement that the only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun is not true. He also says that the NRA headquarters is full of armed employees and a very bad place for an active killer. He does not explain any of these contradictory statements. He does not explain his continual claim that the NRA must compromise. The NRA has compromised on every gun control scheme in the last century. From the pistol and revolver act of 1922 to the "bump stock" ban it compromised; and got nothing in return. What we must do is demand that the usual suspects tell us what gun-rights they will never come after, if someone else comes for those remnant rights will they stand with us to defend them and finally, why should we believe them?

The book does describe an incoherent NRA organization. The author, a business major in college, describes NRA programs as fiefdoms constantly at war with each other for resources. The "safe School" program is described as a "Ferrari in the garage" an excellent program that was never implemented. He says that he got it into schools. He describes Wayne La Pierre as a hands off leader who does not communicate with his staff or program heads. If true, this is no way to run a railroad. The author was the personal assistant to Wayne LaPierre. He claims to have inspired the NRA self-defense "insurance" program. I would not brag about starting that ill-conceived program. It only paid off *after* acquittal. Until the jury came back "not guilty" you were on your own. There are many such programs trying to get you to sign up. Read the fine print.

As I write this the temperature is below zero, Fahrenheit. I just finished an audiobook called "The Coldest Winter" which is a fictionalized account of the Marines fighting their way out of the Chosen Reservoir in Korea. Vastly outnumbered, the enemy on the hills above them, they fought their way out on frozen feet in temperatures of thirty below. It is a legendary battle by the USMC, which seems to collect such legends. The author mentions the Chinese soldiers who fought the same battle and were found frozen to death in their positions, or living Chinese found with their hands frozen to their weapons. The Chinese motivated their men with a political officer system which convinced the men that they were the spearhead of history and they were liberating the world. I know because I did a paper on this system when I was in college. The Marines did not have such a system but devoutly believed that as Marines they could and would prevail.

President Biden spent Valentine's Day demanding that congress pass gun restrictions. He had a meeting with the usual suspects who seemed to have been encouraged. However certain inner city anti-gun groups denounced them as racist because of white leadership. That may be an opportunity for us. The African American Gun Association is increasing in membership. There is some anticipation that President

Biden will issue executive orders against our rights. The Second Amendment Foundation has promised to take him to court if he does.

The Missouri legislature has passed the Second Amendment Protection Act. This prohibits state law enforcement from cooperating with federal anti-gun actions. It will now go on to the Senate.

A bill in the legislature will allow persons with a license to carry on buses. This ban is a handicap for persons unable to afford a car or for some reason cannot drive. We should at least get this passed this year.

The US Concealed Carry Association has postponed its Expo until 1-3 October, 2021 at the Ft. Worth Convention Center in Ft. Worth Texas. Persons with tickets for the earlier date will have their tickets transferred to the new date. Persons who cannot make the new date can get a refund. These expos offer seminars in self-defense and exhibit the latest in holsters and other equipment. I have enjoyed them enormously.

The Henry .22 rifle in our drawing has been won. We are looking for another firearm for the next drawing. Carl Smart suggested muzzle-loading cannon. The cannon had no provision for a bayonet so I rejected it out of hand. I ordered the rest of the Board to reject it out of hand; and everyone had a good laugh. We looked at a Ruger 10-22 with a kit that made it look like a tommy gun. It had no provision for a bayonet, but it looked like a tommy gun. Unfortunately, they are no longer made. We are looking for alternatives. We raised a fair amount of money with the Henry .22. We are not married to the idea of a firearm with a bayonet, but I like them. We need to have a drawing because that is how we raise money. Given the new administration we shall need the money. There will be lawsuits and we may be called upon to assist.

We have to get a new lobbyist. We have been spoiled for many years by Kerry Messer. He is retiring and we must find another. Lobbyists know the players and how the game is played. They know when hearings will be held in time for us to appear. Showing up is important.

In the words of two great time travelers, "Be excellent to each other!"

We shall overcome.