

It is a good day for Liberty.

I recently lost control of a Board meeting. Off-topic, conflicting, conversations broke out in three different parts of the room. Like fire they spread through the room. It was time to adjourn, so we did. This will not happen again. I found my bullwhip.

For as long as I can remember lawyers have been allowed to bypass the metal detector at the Jackson County Courthouse by showing their courthouse pass. As of September, this changed. It appears that some lawyers have accidentally carried guns into the courthouse. The judges had a fit. They did not say how often this has happened. They did not say how many lawyers had entered the courthouse in that time frame. They did say that guns had been taken into the courthouse by accident. They said that intent did not matter. The only solution they had was to force all the lawyers to go through the metal detectors. This delay getting into the building, which is already slow enough. It punishes the lawyers who did not break the rules. It is a reaction to accidental violation of rules by the few. It punishes what they call "Officers of the Court."

Nearly every other county in Missouri allows lawyers to walk around the metal detector. The Cole County courthouse and federal courthouses make us go through the metal detector.

Two months ago the Jackson County sheriff adopted a policy that lawyers must go the metal detector when visiting clients in the jail. A lawyer was prevented from entering when her underwire bra triggered the machine. They refused to use a hand wand. She had to go to the rest room, remove the bra, go through the machine and wiggle back into the bra in the elevator. There was a protest by female lawyers. The policy was modified. I have no experience with underwire bras. I am confident they cannot be used as a weapon.

This is what they do to what they call "Officers of the Court." Being called an officer of the court, when I am not treated as such reminds me of a quote from Benjamin Franklin. "It is like an ox being called a bull. He is grateful for the honor but would like to have returned what is rightfully his."

I know this is a small gripe from a small group of the population. The usual suspects pick off one small group until depriving the population of rights seems normal.

Kerry Messer spoke at our general membership meeting. He has been looking after our interests in Jefferson City for many years. He told us that the manner of speaking to legislators is critical. There are many hypocrites among them. They will stand up and speak against guns, with a pistol concealed on their hip. He cautioned a polite tone. Threats and raised voices will not do us any good. These people think they are right. Our mission is not to tell politicians what we think of them, it is to get them to see things our way. We do not get our way by insulting them, and they take disagreement as insult. We do not get them to vote our way by arguing. First, we find an area of agreement. We are lucky to have Kerry on our side.

The beard growing contest has stalled. We cannot agree on a system of measurement. One pious faction insists on using cubits as it is the first unit of measurement used in the Bible. This is still a problem. None of us know the size of a cubit. The scientific faction wants to use centimeters or millimeters. Things always seem bigger in millimeters. One equestrian demanded that we use furlongs. Some patriots want to use the American system of inches.

President Trump is distracted by the impeachment effort. So are the Democrats. There will be no anti-gun rights bills because of their preoccupation. This does not protect us in Missouri. We will see the usual bills against us in the state legislature. If the president is wounded by the impeachment effort, we may get a raving anti-rights president next year.

The NRA is distracted by internal strife. It is being sued by New York State. Its finances are reduced by members who refuse to contribute or rejoin because of the internal strife. If the NRA does not have its accustomed power next year, we may have a howling anti-rights president.

Wayne LaPierre has had a conference with President Trump and convinced him to stop flirting with new restrictions. The President gave a good pro-rights speech at the UN.

Polls show that 28% of Democrats think it should be illegal to join the NRA. The quick response is threats of civil war or to shoot the first confiscation party at the door. We have seen civil wars; in Bosnia, Somalia, Yemen and in my Great-Great Grandfather's time. They are a nasty business and win lose or draw America would no longer be the same. Shooting the first confiscation party at the door is an emotional reaction and a poor one. They will not come alone, and they will come heavy. So far persons who resisted the first confiscation party have been shot dead. It will certainly not be possible to shoot the second party. They will come in very heavy. It will not be possible to shoot the story that this proves that gun owners are dangerous and must be

disarmed. I want to win this for my grandchildren. We won't win this by a shootout. We will win this by making such allies as we can, putting our internal disputes on hold and keeping our eye on the immediate prize. The immediate prize is winning the election next year. We will then have time to resolve our internal strife in the next four years.

At the General Membership meeting I asked everyone to lift their glass to Beto O'Roarke. The SOB told the truth, they are coming to confiscate our guns. None of the other Democratic candidates refuted his plan. For years the usual suspects insisted that they are not coming for our guns. They thought we were stupid enough to believe it. Some of the early anti-rights groups had the word "ban" in their name. All of them said that only the police and military should have guns. Then they started picking on categories of guns. I remember when "Saturday Night Specials" were the target. These were described as "cheap," because poor people should not have guns. They were further described as inaccurate and low quality likely the blow up in your hand. I think this is exactly the type of gun criminals should be **required** to use. But that was not the point. The point was a ban. They came after .50 rifles which were expensive, high quality and very accurate. There was a brief flirtation with revolving shotguns. They were few on the ground and no massacres. They were able to have them registered and we know how that ends. Now "assault rifles." New York and California were taking guns from people while the usual suspects were claiming no one wanted to take them. They claim good intentions, but memory shows otherwise.

Rally Day has been changed to 7 April 2020 still in the Capital Building in Jefferson City.

We shall overcome.