

The Genius of Impeachment

Fully responsible American citizenship is rarely experienced these days. Mostly this is due to our estrangement from the political system, our leaders, our elected "chosen" representatives. We need change, but we are in a huge quandary: we seem stuck. What can we do to stop the poisonous, lawless Bush administration from their reign of illegal warring, promoting torture, spying on us, and taking away our liberties? All this is done while claiming to "protect us" from terrorism. We've met the enemy, and he has become our government. We must act as responsible citizens to stop the destruction of our political system and our nation. It is that important. The United States is, as Gunter Grass recently put so well, "no longer an inspiration to the world". Rather we are a feared nation, distrusted by most, and reviled by many. And all of this is due to the illegal acts, the thinly veiled endorsement of torture, the lies of the Bush-Cheney administration. On September 12th, 2001, all the world was with the United States, and willing to help us. The Bush government squandered all that good will and potential to bring us to our present situation. It gave Dick Cheney's war profiteers an edge, violated the trust of veterans, drastically damaged the military, and turned on us all with the USA PATRIOT Act.

Grim? Perhaps, but then came Bill Moyers' PBS show a week ago, and we were shown a clear solution to this government by the worst. It seems we do have the tools! We CAN do something! Moyers interviewed two guests who pointed clearly at the solution which was there all along: IMPEACHMENT! One of the guest's on Moyers' show, John Nichols, wrote a book with the title of this piece: "The Genius of Impeachment". The genius of it is that it is the cure for what the Bush Administration has become: an imperial royalist government with a king at its head. If its one thing the framers of the constitution wanted to prevent, it was a king: a president who acted as though he was above the law. The important realization for Americans is that impeachment is not something awful or threatening. It is the cure for the illness: the disease of a President who acts like a king, as though he is the law, and because he does something, that makes it legal.

Impeachment of both George W. Bush and Richard Cheney is imperative. Without it, the illegal actions, torture, the war, lying, NSA spying, abuse of the military, will all stay in place, poisoning our world. This Pandora's toolbox of horrors will pass to a new administration in 2008, giving it powers and precedents which will continue the terror in the world, and destruction of our own country. Responsible citizens can no longer say they don't know about the abuses, can't take action, don't know what to do. The process is impeachment: a great idea for a crucial cure, to be used when needed. I can't think of when we needed it more. In fact it is long overdue. But we citizens must demand it. Clearly the congress is too spineless and complicit to originate such courageous action. But we must.

On September 15, there will be a march on Washington calling for impeachment of the Bush administration. Citizens of our great nation can't sit on the sidelines any longer. Get involved and demand congress begin impeachment proceedings now.

I love my country. It deserves a government by the people, for the people, and most important, OF the people. Stand up for your beloved USA. Impeach the lawless Bush administration, all of them. Now!

Rich Seifert is a long-time Fairbanks activist who believes that Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson would have demanded impeachment years ago. His opinions are entirely his own.