

MEMO FROM THE MAYOR

SUBJECT: We're a Hot, Divided Mess, This Weimar Republic of Ours— Where's Frank Church When We Really Need Him? Final Installment

At a Glance:

- The federal government is spying on us and has been since at least World War II;
- As far back as 2007 an Oxford trained US liberal writer warned that our Republic was in grave danger;
- There exists only one viable corrective solution: return to our constitutional roots and reject the sovietizing of the U.S.

What? Our Government Spies on Us? Say It Ain't So, Joe!

Unless you're as ancient as this writer, you may not know about, or perhaps you've forgotten about, the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities—the so-called “Church Committee”—Idaho Senator Frank Church having chaired it. The committee's final report came out in 1976. This was also the year Church ran for President. Many of Church's critics saw his chairmanship as a vehicle to grandstand, simply to be noticed by a wider national audience for his presidential bid.

It should be noted that only one other Idaho Senator vain enough to run for US President was Republican William Borah, whom Church always claimed to emulate. As it turns out, Church did emulate Borah. Republican insiders opposed Borah in 1936, settling for the forgettable Kansas Governor Alf Landon, while in 1976, Democrat insiders opposed Frank Church, settling for an unforgettable peanut farmer and former governor from Georgia.

For Idaho newcomers, Frank Church was Idaho's last elected Democrat US Senator. In my opinion, at least, Steve Symms, then-Representative from Idaho's First Congressional District (Russ Fulcher's current position) bested Church in the 1980 general election with a margin of over 4000 votes due, in large part, to Church being a key driver in the US Senate to give control of the Panama Canal to Panama instead of allowing the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty of 1903 to complete the transfer in 1999. Certainly, Church's Intelligence Report did not help his re-election bid, but having Ronald Reagan lead the Republican ticket did not help the Senator, either.

So, what was the Church Committee all about? Recall, this was during the Ford Administration and in the wake of Nixon's resignation over Watergate. It also occurred at the

beginning of the inevitable end of the country formerly known as South Vietnam, a country in which over 58,000 US service members died, not counting tens of thousands leaving their body parts. Remember LBJ's campaign promise in 1964: "We are not about to send American boys 9 or 10 thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves"? Hah! Accordingly, after the Nixon debacle—which now looks more like Single A Short-Season Instructional League Baseball compared to the administrations that followed Tricky Dick's—there existed an immense distrust of the Executive Branch in both Houses of Congress, not to mention Walter Cronkite weighing-in on behalf of the American people.

Consequently, in January 1975, Church's committee initiated an investigation into alleged abuses by our nation's alphabet Security Apparatus—CIA, NSA, FBI, DIA and so on—in other words, the Military-Industrial Complex, often referred to nowadays as the Military-Industrial-Intelligence Complex. President Dwight Eisenhower warned us about this apparatus in his January 1961 Farewell Speech to the nation. No wonder. Ike knew all about it; he helped create it!

What did Church's committee learn? As the US Senate Website explains, "After holding 126 full committee meetings, 40 sub-committee hearings, interviewing some 800 witnesses in public and closed sessions, and combing through 110,000 documents, the committee published its final report on April 29, 1976. Investigators determined that, beginning with President Franklin Roosevelt's administration [he of Great Depression and World War II fame] and continuing through the early 1970's, 'intelligence excesses, at home and abroad,' were not the 'product of any single party, administration, or man,' but had developed as America rose to become a superpower during the global Cold War."

For those of you who tend to be a titch cynical when it comes to "government commission" studies or findings, allow me to translate the government-speak set out above: Although the national security apparatus was unlawfully and unconstitutionally spying on Americans—and please understand, nobody will be held accountable because it's just too doggone big and too dangerous for Congress to do so—these are perfectly understandable intelligence excesses caused by the US being thrust into the status of a superpower in the wake of World War II once the Iron Curtain slammed shut.

Thereafter, the Report was placed on a shelf where it continues to collect dust to this day.

Bush 43's New World Order

Having looked at Bush 41's vision of a New World Order in the last Memo, let's examine Bush 43's version of NWO. In Naomi Wolf's critically acclaimed 2007 book entitled The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot, not surprisingly critically acclaimed by the Left, if for no other reason because it rails against Bush 43 and The Patriot Act (clearly misnamed), the Oxford PhD in English Literature gives a list of ten classic steps that dictators or dictator-wannabes always take when attempting to shut down an open society.

According to Wolf, totalitarians in the run up to their take over invariably (1) Invoke an external and internal threat; (2) Establish secret prisons; (3) Develop a Paramilitary Force; (4) Surveil ordinary citizens; (5) Infiltrate citizen's groups; (6) Arbitrarily detain and release citizens; (7) Target key individuals; (8) Restrict the Press; (9) Cast criticism as "espionage" and dissent as "treason"; and (10) Subvert the Rule of Law. Also, according to Wolf, once number ten is "locked in," the Rubicon has been crossed and there will be no going back to the way things were. From then on, it will be the one percent, then the rest of us.

Anything look familiar there? Remember, she was railing against Bush 43's response to 9/11 and his announcement of the "Long War" and the "Patriot Act."

Let's be clear: we're living during a very dark time. If you fail to see that, get help in locating the light switch. Have you been following Fox News anchor Tucker Carlson and his controversy over being spied on by the Biden Administration? The NSA is alleged to have read his emails because he wanted to interview Vladimir Putin, which Carlson can legally do. The Intelligence Apparatus reading a citizen's email without a valid warrant, however, is not—it violates the US Constitution.

In his Farewell Address, Dwight Eisenhower was never more prescient when he said, "In the councils of government, we must guard the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist." We're there, and we've been there for a very long time. If you're looking forward to the Soviet Socialist States of America, just chill and do nothing. Unless We the People make some drastic changes very soon, it's coming. Want to know why? Because Howard Zinn and Sol Alinsky will have won—that's why. What? You don't know who they were or what they did? That's why they won.

The solution? A return to a balance of power among the three branches of government in our original constitutional Republic format. Remember, the United States is not now nor has it ever been a true democracy. Duly-elected officials need to be in charge, not a bunch of bullies in a basement with computers. May God have mercy on these Dis-United States. How could He possibly want to bless this hot, divided mess?