

## National Security and Individual Freedom – Part One

*Until recently we could rejoice in the statement by Mr. Justice Brandeis that “the right to be left alone by the Government is the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized man.”*

—John Lord O’Brian in a speech at Harvard, April 27, 1955

The gentleman who recited this seminal quote from Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis’s dissenting opinion in *Olmstead v. United States* (1928), was a leading Republican in his day.

In his two-part Harvard speech, John Lord O’Brian, a former United States Attorney General for Western New York, issued numerous warnings about the dangers of forfeiting Constitutionally granted freedoms for the promise—not necessarily the guarantee but the promise—of protection, peace, and security.

His speech was undoubtedly a reaction to both the real and false specters of Communism that existed in the United States in the early fifties.

After all, you must have some real menaces otherwise the fear factor would be negligible. Supply some true crazies from time to time and you can maximize the freakout effect with phantoms in between.

Problem was, while Tailgunner Joe McCarthy was shaking Hollywood upside down looking for Commies, he never hit on the real Pinkos like Rockefeller, Carnegie, John Dewey and the stable of University of Chicago anti-American creeps that were allowed to hijack our public fool, er, sorry, school system.

Beyond O’Brian’s concern for government’s proclivity for taking over-reactionary measures, was he aware of the greater plan already put into motion?

Did O’Brian know that an elitist cabal was seeking to destroy the United States and all freedom-loving nations in order to make them more pliant and willing to accept global rule, which will, ultimately, prove to be nothing less than pandemic totalitarianism?

Consider his words on the first of his back-to-back appearances at Harvard:

*I should like to express my intention to discuss here certain far-reaching changes in law, in constitutional theory, and in the attitude of the public toward our institutions, which have been developing during the present generation and which, if not halted, may result in a permanent reorientation of the individual citizen in his historic relationship to government and organized society. In attempting an analysis of these separate recent tendencies, we should first remind ourselves of their background in the vast changes during our time which have taken place outside our borders, in our balancing of the relationship between the status of the individual and government, and in our own thinking as related to the constitutional liberties of the citizen.*

O’Brian seems to have known that a process was taking place that sought to irrevocably alter the government-citizen relationship. He knew the movement was dangerous and, as he stated, “if not halted, may result in a permanent reorientation of the individual citizen in his historic relationship to government and organized society.”

Are we not experiencing this today? More and more surveillance mechanisms and laws being created to do what? Keep us safe? Hardly. But, unfortunately, the drooling masses have been conditioned to accept more surveillance and intrusion as long as

whatever's being done is connected—employing even the most ridiculous stretch of logic—to the promise of protection from terrorists.

O'Brian hits it right on the head regarding the purposes of education and communication as it pertains to the propagandizing and collectivization of the masses.

*The process of mass education and the use of mass media of communication . . . are tending to make mediocrity the accepted standard and to reduce the intrinsic importance of the individual citizen.*

As if ripped right from the writings of those today who are concerned about the age-old government shell game, O'Brian writes:

*It is an understatement to emphasize that one of the principal influences which threaten the very existence of democracy is the all-pervasive craving for security at any price.*

O'Brian again nails what is happening today, including the anti-libertarian pursuits by our supposed “representatives.”

*Over and over again we have been warned against the insidious and sinister invasions of civil liberty by plausible excuses, yet it is noteworthy that in our time some of the most damaging of these encroachments have been deliberately embodied in Acts of Congress.*

The next assertion by O'Brian is the most sensational and damning—but also most accurate—he issued during the first half of his speech. As will be dealt with in forthcoming articles, O'Brian states definitively that detention camps for dissidents are real.

And they are there and waiting even today.

From O'Brian:

*Similarly, upon court review, the Attorney General is required to present the evidence supporting the finding of reasonable ground for detention “only to an extent consistent with national security.” This statute also provides for the establishment of concentration camps designated as “detention camps.” It is officially reported that several of these camps have already been completed and are ready for occupancy.*

If you've made it to the end of this article, how can you read the words of those who wrote and spoke out a half-century ago about the corruptive nature of government and not be moved to stand up against this bloated, voracious machine?

How many of us, who are moved by the stories of those colonial patriots—a paltry minority in those days—those who stood up against the Crown's tyranny, can find it within themselves to do nothing in the face of another and greater tyranny?

Well, I guess it's easy, isn't it?

Grab the remote. Change the channel.