

Stalag Amerika – Part One

Recently actor George Clooney has been getting bashed because he voiced dissenting remarks about the Iraqi War—the fourth war in a row that’s never been declared such by an act of Congress as provided for in that document most of us have forgotten about.

You know . . . that document . . . that, ah, what’s its name?

Ah, oh yeah, that Constitution thingy, right?

Somewhere along the line our Presidents and their cabinets decided not to go to Congress for too much, let alone to declare war. No, they just took their orders from their handlers and—bang—they rammed it right on through.

And we and those before us just sat there and watched with this sort of self-inflicted paralysis of thought, word, and deed, didn’t we?

Our royalist oligarchs seem never to have any compunction—because they don’t—about sending young men and women off to the meat grinder so they and their corporate masters can make a whole lot of money, while we, the little people, forever mourn our dead and are graced with the special privilege of picking up the tab, the never-ending financial burden of keeping war machines primed and running.

What do we get in return?

The preservation of our freedom, we are told.

Is that right?

I’ve heard our President state ad nauseum that we are safer here because our soldiers are fighting terrorism abroad.

Are you people really buying this Orwellian doublespeak cliché? This Mad-Hatter-Tea-Party nonsensical non sequitur? I mean, really?

Let’s break this dirt-dumb statement down:

Where did 9-11 occur?

In this country, right?

Where are the supposed bad guys?

Over there, we are told, right?

But the bad guys over there are, in fact, over there. The supposed bad guys who did us wrong on 9-11 got inside our gates. They were here, right?

Oh yeah, it’s true, the supposed bad guys who did us wrong came from over there.

So what?

There are probably millions of people around the world who hate us.

That those who hate us stay where they are presents no threat to us as long as they don’t come over here with the intention of doing us harm, right?

Then it follows—does it not?—that unless the bad guys get inside the United States, we don’t really have any threat abroad.

So if you buy the story that radical Muslim sects within the U.S. conspired to and successfully pulled off 9-11, then the problem is within our borders not without.

But, you say, our military is fighting over there to cut off the pipeline of terrorists into this country.

Are you serious?

Our military has gone into the backyard of the radical Islamists, who will send an endless conga line of insurgents into the Middle East states to fight our forces.

This does nothing to keep us safe at home. But it does get a lot of our people killed.

In the meantime, the agencies that are entrusted with border security and the deportation of illegal or overstayed immigrants suddenly became impotent, then we are told that this nation is crawling with the very same creeps that purportedly pulled off 9-11.

Therefore, what's the problem with this picture?

Well, isn't the problem *here*, not over there?

How have we become safer for sending our military abroad?

Let's get real: The military is over there not to make the U.S. safer but to secure a region that will make corporations a lot of money and to extend the American Empire that the NeoCon Trotskyites so badly wished for.

Now getting back to George Clooney's anti-war remarks and the response they evoked:

I don't care much for Hollywood types and what they think.

But that Clooney would be characterized as "unpatriotic" because of his views is frightening.

The right to express dissenting opinions is one of the foundational blocks this nation was built upon.

And as was stated here in last week's column, the words of Orwell should not be forgotten. He stated that nationalism meant "identifying oneself with a single nation or other unit, placing it beyond good and evil and recognizing no other duty than that of advancing its interests."

So the distinction between good and evil gets cast to the wind, doesn't it?

How does that chilling dictum go?

My country right or wrong.

Therefore, in this schema, it all gets down to advancing the interests of a nation even though its leadership is demonstrably rabid.

Can you not see what is happening to us?

Last week, Fuhrer Bush, Reichmarshall Alberto Gonzalez and Teutonic Knight Lindsay Graham all agreed that it would be acceptable to round up those "Americans who are deemed insufficiently loyal," according to a Nat Parry article written for Consortium News (<http://www.consortiumnews.com/2006/022106a.html>).

And what exactly is the definition of "insufficiently loyal?"

And who exactly decides who is insufficiently loyal?

Can you not see that where we are headed has been foreshadowed by where we have been and are now?

And the lessons of the past have sadly been forgotten by those who lived through the scares of the twentieth century.

However, the next columns will air the voices of the past that warned us about the Nazification of the United States.

Because it *is* happening here.