

Stalag Amerika – Part Four

The Patriot Act was recently renewed, which, really, shouldn't have come as a surprise to either those who believe it's a great piece of legislation or to those who know it to be the manifesto of control and surveillance that it is.

The first implementation of the Patriot Act was supposedly made more palatable because certain sections—the most heinous—had sunset provisions.

Well, sunset provisions don't mean much as long as they are given life again by Congress' sunrise voting, which has just recently been the case.

For those who think Republican and Democrat politicians represent opposite political ideologies, doesn't it seem a farce (or should it seem to be such, at least, in the minds of those who have *D* stamped on their voter registration cards) that the Dems on The Hill caved in on the Patriot Act, though they still never miss a beat in lambasting this Republican administration for being nothing less than crazed totalitarianists.

Do we have a little hypocrisy going here?

Unfortunately, Congress has a long record of voting for draconian measures.

In his eye-opening 1955 Harvard speech, Republican John Lord O'Brian stated: "Over and over again we have been warned against the insidious and sinister invasions of civil liberty by plausible excuse, yet it is noteworthy that in our time some of the most damaging of these encroachments have been deliberately embodied in Acts of Congress."

O'Brian also had the courage to question one of the dirtiest little secrets contained in the forerunner of today's Patriot Act: the Internal Security Act.

"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."

Though many have denied the reality of detention camps, *Look* senior editor William Hedgpath took on the issue in the magazine's May, 28, 1968 edition.

"In 1968 America, in the background and, to be sure, found most often among those who—by birth or choice—are 'out of line' with the rest of the landscape, there lurks today a fear less strong but no less real than that which held dissident Germans in abeyance.

"Obviously, no one knows of anyone else now locked away in some out-of-sight Americanized Auschwitz. But that the simmering mood of tension and distrust throughout the land allows such notions to prosper, to have the ring of potential plausibility for so many people, is in itself almost as frightening. As always rumors are plentiful but not as always, many of today's listeners are somehow more receptive to any whispered grotesqueries that lend force to their own disillusionments about America."

Hedgpath drew down particularly hard on Title II, Section 100 of the Internal Security Act of 1950 because of a provision that gave "legal authority by which, on order of the President, the U.S. Government can place and hold American citizens in detention camps."

Senator Karl Mundt responded to such a measure as a program for "establishing concentration camps into which people might be put without benefit of trial, but merely by executive fiat . . . simply by an assumption, mind you, that an individual might be thinking about engaging in espionage or sabotage."

Fellow Senator William Langer stated: “So it is now proposed to have concentration camps in America! We can be absolutely certain that the concentration camps are of only one purpose: Namely, to put in them the kind of people those in authority do not like!”

We forget all too quickly about those who, in the post-9-11 era, were detained and considered criminal or persons of interest, but who had done no wrong.

Airports seem to be the venue for most of these miscarriages of justice. Here you find a curious mix of a mysterious data base that can purportedly identify “terrorists” along with security personnel who oftentimes are not that versed in speaking English and demonstrate the IQ of a small appliance light bulb.

Or, most recently, do you remember the snafu that targeted the Benedictine Sisters as worthy of scrutiny by Homeland Security?

These nasty problems inherent to our current security mechanisms were addressed by Hedgepath all those years ago:

“The law goes on to outline a course of action for the arrested individual that, in general, is at odds with normal judicial procedure. He first would be given a hearing, without right of bail before a ‘preliminary hearing officer’ whose decision could then be appealed to a ‘Detention Review Board.’ At no time, though, is the Attorney General ‘required to furnish information the revelation of which would disclose the identity of evidence of Government agents or officers which he believes it would be dangerous to National safety and security to divulge.’

“In other words, the Government can decline to present any evidence whatsoever, in effect, transforming the traditional presumption of innocence into a presumption of guilt. The burden of *dis-proof* is on the prisoner.”

Those days of guilty until proven innocent are here again, but increased by the power of 10.

There have been warnings all along about this sort of thing. They were issued by true statesmen and journalists who knew that the terror card has always been played in an effort to turn nations into dictatorial states.

If terrorism were a true threat in America—that is, a threat from the outside that has infiltrated our borders—then why haven’t we had more attacks?

Why haven’t we had more indiscriminate acts such as suicide bombers, bridge and tunnel bombings, the poisoning of water supplies?

Why?

Because the only acts that have hit us have been abetted by our own government, just as has happened with the London, Madrid, and Bali bombings.

Those events, like the 1993 World Trade Center bombings and 9-11, are the spectacular singular events from which governments can extract much to further the agenda of a one-world government, which translates to a world run by bankers and corporations, to a world with few freedoms and plenty of control, to a world boldly envisioned and written about by so many elites throughout the centuries who couldn’t care less for you and me—the creatures they call *useless feeders*.