



July, 1972

TIGER IN THE LAND

There is an apparent misconception widely accepted in America. It is shocking in its implication. This misconception has it that patriotism consists of loving our government and of willingly and joyously doing whatever the political leadership of America demands.

It is this misconception, cunningly advanced and slyly promoted by men in government, which has paved the way for despotism since our emergence as a proud and independent people. Patriotism cannot be a love of government. The men we remember and honor as our founders, we call patriots. But what did they do? They fought against their government, with a tenacity and singleness of purpose rarely matched. Their government was that of England; their king was George the Third. But we call them patriots because they loved their country and not their government.

True patriotism rises above the government as a mountain towers above the plain. When we think of our country and a feeling of love and devotion wells up within us, it should spring from the reality of what our country is and what it means. This meaning has little if any connection with our government, which is, at best, a group of men holding a monopoly of force and privilege.

The only conceivable virtue of our government existed at the time of its founding. Then, it was a small, impotent aggregation of men wielding but little power. We could love our country then without a twinge of conscience. The government did not stand in the way of our love. Even a tiger, caged and dependent upon our care, can induce a feeling of love. But a tiger hiding in the tall grass, lying in wait for the unwary traveler, is scarcely an object that engenders the warm feeling of trust and affection that we know when love is in our hearts.

It is time we awoke to realize that the tiger of tyranny has come from its cage. It is on the prowl in our midst. Its victims are legion. There is scarcely a family in the land but has felt the dread terror of unbridled taxation, and has learned to fear the forays which regulate and hamper our production. Jaws dripping with the blood of our youth, the tiger crouches in slaving watchfulness as we try to help our children toward constructive, self-supporting lives.

We do not know where the tiger will strike next. But we know that it will strike, for there is nothing to prevent it. Until it is caged, we are not our own masters. A reign of terror, induced by the tiger of government, keeps us cowering in our homes, afraid to walk the streets, afraid to excel, fearful of the penalty of doing our best. Such a beast cannot inspire love.

Since patriotism is larger than the government, what is it? Is it the love of the geography which makes up the physical confines of these United States? Yes, it is that. But it is more than that. It is the ocean's strand, the endless plains burnished in waving wheat, the virgin snowy caps on slumbering peaks, the green and gold of summer and autumn forests, the rivers, the lakes of multi-blues, and much, much more.

Is it the people of this land who inspire us to patriotism? Yes, it is that. But it is more than that. It is the grandeur and the simplicity of each man who strives. It is the eagerness of youth, endowed with the desire and the power to prove that they can better the record of their elders. It is the transparent pride of lineage, the self-respect of accomplishment, the hope of better things to come. It is human strength and human frailty, seen in mosaic. It is the good; it is the bad; it is the reality of life in motion. It is a constant source of surprise and wonder. But it is much, much more.

Is it the genius of America which inspires us to love it? Yes, it is that. But it is more than that. It is the scientist laboring in research. It is the financier risking his fortune, his reputation, and his way of life on the chance that he might win. It is the architect raising temples of concrete and steel. It is the builder fleshing out the dreams. It is the skill, the brawn, the sweat and tears of progress. It is this and much, much more.

The secret of our patriotism is in our love of freedom. It is not our land that moves us. It is that we are free in the land. It is not our people who move us. It is that the people must be free.

It is not genius or accomplishment in themselves, but that we are free to invent, discover, and live our own lives - it is freedom which provides the basis for any patriotic fervor we may have.

This is the lesson the men in power have never learned. It is they, not us, who need a lesson in love of country. We do not need to be taught devotion to what is ours. The men in power work against that devotion. They lust after our possessions; they impose their rule; they take our loved ones from our midst, and intone against any resistance to their manifold dictates. The men in government think that they are the country. And, after molesting us and victim-

izing us, they marvel that they have not inspired our devotion.

The government is merely those men who hold power for the time being. They are not America. They can be tolerated only when they are weak and small. Like a tiger, they are only lovely when strong bars stand between them and us.

But now the tiger has broken from its cage. The tiger tells us that in order to be safe from each other, we must all be imprisoned behind the bars designed to curtail tigers. This we deny.

Make a list of all the "programs" the government has for us. Now make a list of all the problems the government has actually solved. Do the lists match? Or is there really only one list, that of the "programs"? The government has solved no problems at all. Each problem met by a program, continues in aggravated form.

Perhaps the time has come for us to recall that other beasts which terrorized and consumed once roamed the earth. They are no longer with us. Like the brontosaurus, they became extinct.

Tigers may be picturesque when confined to a well-run zoo. But civilization and tigers on the prowl don't go together.

Today's patriot loves freedom and civilization. He is disenchanted with the tiger in the land.

-- Robert LeFevre

CONGRESSIONAL TALLY

Ten Senators and 34 Representatives have replied to Bob LeFevre's recommendation that they case their false and fraudulent posture as agents of the people. Resignations thus far: 0. (One man, Mike Gravel of Alaska, offered July 6 to resign his senatorial position...provided he was nominated at Miami as Vice President!)

"POLITICIANS ARE OBSOLETE" - Seattle newspaper headline, May '72
Speaking at the University of Washington, Dr. F. Buckminster Fuller (he has 26 honorary doctorates) charged that the major threat from politicians is their continuing dependence on technology to find new ways of killing people to stay in power. Fuller believes that the "Young World" will make politicians obsolete and the "Design Revolution" will eventually triumph in the good life. Survival between now and the triumph of the design revolution is a chancy thing, according to the noted architect, engineer, inventor, poet. The 77-year-old Fuller cautioned young people, and everyone else, "The young have to realize that the things they don't like, soon won't be done any more because they have become obsolete, not because of violent protests against them."

"TIGER IN THE LAND" (p. 1-3) Now Available in Pamphlet Form



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TIGER IN THE LAND
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EXPERIMENT IN LETTERS

Every other Monday, members of a new organization (the Forum for Contemporary History, Box 127 Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara, CA 93101) receive a letter from a person making contemporary history, commenting meaningfully upon, or calling attention to important issues and events. The Forum attempts to "keep a channel open, especially for those with unpopular or controversial viewpoints." Discussion initiated through Forum letters is continued in a new quarterly Journal. Its first issue (June/July '72) features three letters of Rampart president Robert LeFevre, in reply to (1) Michael Harrington, chairman, Socialist Party, USA, commenting on the "belated Republican recognition of one of the most fundamental of Marxian truths." (2) Norman St. John-Stevas, Tory member of Parliament, speaking against abortion as "discrimination against the foetus on grounds of size." (3) Congressman Paul N. McCloskey, Jr., recommending as a counter to the threat of concentrated wealth working secretly to influence governmental decision-making, "severe limits on congressional campaign donations, and post-primary financing by the U.S. Treasury."

"THE GREAT TAX STRIKE"

Statements by individuals personally challenging the right as well as the power of the IRS to collect income taxes, and offering specific recommendations to tax rebels, appear in the Tax Strike Digest, a 12-page tabloid (Box 1306, Torrance, CA 90505) with excerpts from the "tax strike issue" of the American Mercury, Summer '72.

"THE LEAST EDUCATION AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE COST"

"How long can we go on beating each other over the head fighting about how we're going to force our children to attend a school system that is bankrupting us?Universal compulsory education was literally a Prussian invention for turning children into obedient and believing servants of the state where it was introduced in 1717. Beginning in the 1850's it was progressively fastened upon America for many of the same reasons. It would make us all loyal, law-abiding, punctual, and useful members of the national labor force.... The cost and the turmoil in and around our public schools can't be justified by any of the known, demonstrable results...the least education at the highest possible cost." -- Nicholas von Hoffman, syndicated newspaper columnist, June '72

THERAPEUTIC GIVING (and we're tax-deductible, too)

"As long as I can afford to, I intend to send your college a contribution whenever I am harassed by a bureaucrat. This (gift) is for a bubble-gum popping, cigarette-smoking inspector who called me back into the kitchen of my restaurant (where 'no smoking' signs are posted) and told me I had 24 hours to comply with new rules and regulations or be closed down. Please use this where you feel you need it most. P.S. He said, 'If you don't like this, you know who to vote out in the next mayor's race.'"

REGIONAL NEWS (as space permits)

Organizations or individuals who'd like to tell other libertarians about forthcoming events are welcome to submit announcements (newsletter is published the 15th, deadline the 25th).

Libertarian Supper Club of Los Angeles, Carl's Restaurant, 3760 S. Figueroa, Los Angeles, supper 7:30 p.m., program 8:15 p.m., first Tuesday, next meeting August 1.

Christian Laissez-Faire meets Sunday, 2 p.m., July 23, August 20. Write to John Yench, Box 772, Anaheim, CA 92805.

PERSON-TO-PERSON DIRECTORY

Doug Miller, 4030 3rd St., Apt. J, San Diego, CA 92103, wants to sell or trade a set of "The Basic Principles of Objectivism" (#603), first edition, signed by Nathaniel Branden, plus many seminar records; would like to hear from other libertarians on freedom-type projects.

LIBERTARIAN YEARBOOK

A new 1972 Libertarian Yearbook: a closer, more personal look at libertarianism; convenient listing of ideas, organizations, enterprises, books, individuals, and periodicals - leading exponents of liberty. (\$3.95), Open Campus Publications, 6452 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406.

LEAGUE OF NON-VOTERS

Sy Leon appeared on major shows (NBC-TV, ABC-TV Chicago; NBC-TV and CBS radio St. Louis; KLNQ Omaha) on midwest tour July 6-12 for the League of Non-Voters: "The ballot system existing today in the U.S. acts to disenfranchise every man and woman. A free people have the right to say 'No.' Unless you can say 'None of this is acceptable,' you really don't have a choice. The lesser of two evils...is evil."

This newsletter is published monthly by Rampart College
Santa Ana, California, and is available at no charge upon request.



104 WEST FOURTH STREET, SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701

SECOND-CLASS POSTAGE
PAID AT SANTA ANA,
CALIFORNIA

JULY, 1972