



## Life, Flight and Liberty Part X

An essay by Henry Nicolle

### *Principle and reality of American Self-Rule*

Through the period of the 1930s through the 1940's English author, Eric Arthur Blair made numerous observations which resonate still today in American society and politics. Blair wrote as "George Orwell".

Here is one of Orwell's quotations which will ring familiar in today's American theater of the absurd:

"In our age there is no such thing as 'keeping out of politics.' All issues are political issues, and politics itself is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred and schizophrenia."

Also, of course, "All politics is local."

Orwell was employed as a WWII propagandist, during which he aptly and presciently described our current American political body as:

". . . something halfway between a girls' school and a lunatic asylum, and all we are doing at present is useless, or slightly worse than useless."

Okay, I freely admit commission of political incorrectness by quoting the observation of a deceased author out of context, out of time and out of sync with prevailing concepts of "social justice". (Whatever "social justice" actually represents.) So, if your Freudian id and super-ego feelings overcome your ego's rationality, sue me. My words and intentions are solely my own and I own them outright, regardless of where I am published. I am not censored or edited. My name and contact information are always at the tail of my essays.

I will close the introductory phase of this essay with another George Orwell/Eric Blair observation:

"If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."

We are handicapped by paranoid hysteria and treacherous demagoguery at all levels of current society and politics as we endure another period of critical change, perhaps an existential societal evolution. In small communities, I think people may be at least partially immune to suicidal herd instincts and may be willing to reconsider the benefits of open discussion between neighbors inside and outside of government.

In our Carbon County communities, we tend to share many personal virtues. Our individual and family lives and daily activities reflect much of the independence of Wyoming's Western culture and predispositions.

I think that we should talk more with each other and with our neighbors in government. We, and our neighbors in government, often appear to be on separate paths for our communities. This divide is probably inevitable when both government entities and their constituents have lost their core purpose for establishing representative institutions for the day-to-day administration of necessary community services.

As I compose my essays, I am highly sensitive to the prospect that my comments may be based upon inadequate observations and faulty interpretations. I harp freely over our loss of Liberty and over the very obvious divergence of principle for governance between our People and the people who serve in government roles.

Am I deceiving myself, believing that the fundamental principles of self-governance in America are still respected among our people? Have we become so fettered by fat and convenience that our Liberty has been relegated to the same dustbin as our Declaration and Constitution?

Have we abandoned that hunger for self-determination and self-governance that drove our People to Revolution only a few generations ago? Have we become the people created by Alexander Hamilton's desire for an American Empire and birthed by Lincoln's treachery and conquest?

Perhaps that has become our condition. Is our Declaration irrelevant and the Constitution spawned from it, now of no consequence? Such are the declarations of our leaders and courts now and since 1865. By observation, I am inclined to accept their assertions that central government exercises supreme dominance over us.

We are fat, comfortable and politically impotent. We like it this way. We are not hungry and our poor are among the wealthiest inhabitants of the Earth. Until we are hungry again, we will be ruled, our labors harvested and our lives insecure, fat, and comfortable.

Is this the way we want our lives to be? If our present condition satisfies the People of our communities, then how can I argue for improvements? Until we hunger again for the benefits of Liberty or we find ourselves with hungry children and empty hands, our desires and complaints as a community will remain muted by our abandonment of available remedies.

We need to talk. We need to expand our hundreds of inward focused Facebook channels outward to merge our organizational energies and personal opinions. We can create a real community of self-governing conversation. How would this be accomplished?

On a personal level, I have no clue. I am an "old school" creature, formerly embedded in the privileged high-tech, high security government and defense domains. I did not question my "normal" until I grew well into my late middle-age. Ignorance truly is bliss and a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing.

My political epiphany and inversion of my understanding of American History are intense conversations for development in other essays. For now, I can confidently assert that the history we are taught is written by the winners and it is constantly re-written as the relationships between the ruling class and the general population evolves. My friends, we are not in charge of anything other than our bedtime.

If we are content to know nothing about what our government is planning; if we are satisfied to be the last to know what our representatives are deciding in the background; if we cannot be bothered with the necessities of participative self-government, then we can remain silent.

If we are not content to be cultivated and our labor harvested and if we object to our children being trained into submission and dependence, then we are forced to engage the status quo with the powers of community.

We need to talk. If we are indeed the authority and power of self-government, we need to find the power to exercise our authority. Until we talk, we have only the individual ineptness of an ignorant ballot. Start somewhere. One way is to write!

In Carbon County, we have three active newspapers. Collectively, they are a vital community resource for community development and cohesion. If you want to see something that you find interesting in a newspaper, subscribe and write! All three papers beg in every issue, "Please Write!"

Your responses inspire community. Your contributions are the keys to our future. Please join the conversation. If you can write, compose thoughts, poetry, describe items of interest to you or your neighbors, please join me. A dozen words, a paragraph, an essay, a poem, an observation, or a book. Emails or letters are fine. If you are shy or are a spoken teller of your tales, I will help you write. Join the conversation, Please!

Henry Nicolle  
henry@henrynicolle.org  
POB 1194  
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301  
Tel: 307-321-6432