



The Destruction of Religious Liberty in America;

A Brief History.

The war against Religious Liberty in America is a war against the United States itself; Religious Liberty was America's First Liberty and its destruction marked the end of The United States of America as a Free Nation.

The Comstock Laws.

The first effective attempt to use the Government to suppress the growth of the Rational religious philosophy of Freethought was the Comstock Laws that were enacted in 1873. The Comstock Laws gave the Post Office Department power to seize and destroy any "obscene" books, newspapers, magazines, etc. that the Postal authorities considered obscene. The Law was the result of a plea by Anthony Comstock, and the Society for the Suppression of Vice, to exclude certain "obscene" matter from the Mail. Comstock's original proposal to Congress was for the law to deny some 63 objectionable books the use of the U.S. Mail, and from this small infringement of our Liberty there grew the most stringent suppression of information in American history. Anthony Comstock was a Christian of the narrowest kind, and the administration of these National Censorship laws were left entirely to his discretion. From the original sixty three "obscene" books that was to be excluded from the Mails, the list grew to include birth control information, medical books, novels, Freethought literature and any other information that Comstock did not like. To Comstock any book that questioned the existence of God was obscene.

It became clear that the main objective of the Comstock Law was to crush the growing intellectual movement of Freethought Religion. Anthony Comstock made it his personal business to entrap and send to prison every Freethinker he could. At one time The Truth Seeker magazine, the leading Freethought publication in America at the time, ran lists of Freethinkers who were in prison for their religious beliefs. And it was Comstock himself who entrapped Dr. D.M. Bennett, the famous Editor and Founder of The Truth Seeker magazine, and had this elderly man convicted and sentenced to thirteen months of hard labor in prison. The direct involvement of Comstock to personally entrap leaders of the Freethought movement

illustrates the main thrust of the censorship movement. The book on this CD-ROM, **'From Behind the Bars'** is Dr. Bennett's letters while in jail, and then after he was transferred to prison. This very rare book follows the efforts to secure Dr. Bennett's release, and describes Anthony Comstock's character and methods of entrapment -- methods that would be highly illegal today.

The Growth of Skepticism.

In spite of the dedicated efforts of Anthony Comstock and harassment by the United States Postal Service, the Freethought movement continued to grow. After the First World War Skepticism and Freethought surged forth rapidly. Returning veterans realized that if a god existed such horrible things as wars could not happen. The Freethought movement advanced with such energy immediately after the War that it was thought by many that Freethought would be the dominate religion in America within fifty years.

After World War I there was much agitation for social reform; Labor Unions were demanding higher wages, shorter hours and job security; Negro Rights Groups worked for equal rights for all Americans; other groups demanded Child Labor Laws to protect children; Woman Suffrage was still an issue, and many other such groups were working for other causes. Such reform groups will always be active, to one degree or another, in any Free and healthy society. And there was also the Socialists, Communists, Anarchist and other political movements and groups that had their own agenda for making the world, and America, better -- some were reasonable, most were not. These political groups -- Communists, Socialists, Anarchist, and the rest were mutual enemies of each other, and there was no cooperation among them.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was having a great effect on America, and Communists in America -- both American citizens and immigrants -- were working to establish a Communist government in place of the Democratic Government we have. In spite of the hard times, low pay and long hours, the Communist movement was never very strong in America, and so the Government created the "Red Scare" by adding together all the various, unrelated, political, economic and religious factions and treated them as if they were all one great organized movement that threatened to destroy America.

It must be emphasized that the religion of Freethought had nothing to do with any of these other movements; in fact, most of these organizations were at odds with all the rest, so it could hardly be called an organized effort to destroy America. Freethought was strictly a religious movement looking only to compete, on an equal basis, with other religions in America. The American Freethought movement was, is, and has always been a patriotic religious movement that holds dear the grand ideals that America was originally founded upon.

The Palmer Raids.

The Palmer Raid of January 2, 1920 at 9 p.m., in over 70 of Americas largest cities, was the work of two men; United States Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer, who had Presidential aspirations and apparently thought that by creating the illusion of a great threat to America, and then forcefully defeating that threat, that the American people would gladly elect him President. Whatever his hopes, the Palmer Raids destroyed him as a politician, and put an end to his political career forever. The other man responsible for the Palmer Raids was the new head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, young Mr. J. Edgar Hoover. While Palmer was destroyed by the Palmer Raids, Mr. Hoover remained in charge of the F.B.I. for the rest of his life -- much to the shame and ruin of America.

On the pretext of defending America from dangerous political and economic forces the Government launched an attack upon every organization that Big Business, International Religion, and the Government itself wanted destroyed. The Government's attack on the mind and liberties of the American people started with the Palmer Raids and continues today. For the Palmer Raid of January 2nd the Government spies that had infiltrated the various organizations were instructed to arranged mass meetings on that night so the Government agents -- and their accompanying vigilante groups -- could round up the greatest number of people with the least effort. In addition to the lists of organizations, meetings and buildings to be raided (and wrecked), and all persons found at these places arrested, there were also lists of individuals that were to be arrested, and private homes were broken into and people arrested from their beds throughout the night. During that night thousands of American citizens were arrested and herded into unsanitary buildings and holding pins all across

America. The next day the newspapers reported that the prisoners appeared with bloody heads and black eyes.

The Defeat of Freethought.

The Golden Age of Freethought, and all real Religious and Intellectual Liberty in America, ended at 9 p.m. on January 2, 1920. That Palmer Raid was only the beginning of an ongoing suppression of intellectual activity that has resulted in the "dumbing" of America, and in the dangerous expansion of organized superstition. From that time on the Government has issued lists of "subversive" literature, "subversive" organizations and "subversive" individuals. The Government continues to take alarm at Americans who have beliefs, ideas, facts and knowledge not approved by the Government.

There is NO connection between the religion of Freethought and the political/economic ideologies of Communism or Socialism, nor of any area of thought; political, economic, or any other except religion. And yet the main force of the United States Government has been directed against the religious belief that gods do not exist, or if they do they certainly take no notice of the needs of mankind. Freethought includes many non-dogmatic, thinking, religious beliefs such as Deism, the primary religion of the American Founding Fathers -- this was also the religion of Thomas Paine, who was not an Atheist as ignorance has claimed. The era of the greatest advance of Freethought, from the 1860s to the early 1920s, produced a fascinating array of enlightened men and women, and proves the great advance in moral and intellectual progress that is possible when the mind is freed from the fetters of fear and superstition.

After World War II Freethought again surged forward, and so there was a renewed determination by the Government to stop its progress. The renewed attack on Religious Liberty after World War II is generally known as "The McCarthy Era." and it continued to include certain religious beliefs -- Freethought religious beliefs -- as being "Subversive" and "Un-American." In fact the hatred for the religious belief of Atheism was clearly the main factor of the Government's attack on Communism. It was never Communism that was the enemy, but "Atheistic Communism" or "Godless Communism." If the enemy was really the political/economic ideology called Communism, why was religious bigotry always so clearly stated in condemning the economic enemy?

Perhaps it is necessary that we define and explain Atheism, as most Americans seem to have no idea what the word means -- it certainly has nothing to do with Communism. Atheism is the belief, or faith, or knowledge, that gods do not exist; this belief is supported by every discovery that science has made. There has never been a discovery that required a god, there has always been a natural cause and a natural effect; always just the workings of the laws of nature, and nothing more. And the Laws of Nature never had, or needed, a "law giver." In short Atheism is a very logical, rational and scientific opinion. Atheists themselves are a very diverse group, and their religious belief is about the only thing they have in common -- and the fact that they are invariably well read. There is an unusual proportion of professional people -- professors, doctors, attorneys, successful business people and the like that are Atheists or Agnostics. The political opinions of Atheists generally vary only about as widely as do those of any other religious group in America, and so most are either Democrats or Republicans. Atheists are mostly very devoted family people, and divorces are probably less common among Atheists than among most other groups. It is always very heartening to see the number of old and devoted couples that attend Atheists and Freethought Conventions -- and tell you all about their wonderful grandchildren. Contrary to Christian propaganda, Atheists are a kind and caring lot that worry a great deal about the "dumbing of America," and the destruction of our precious Constitutional Rights by organized religion.

Why would the American Government launch such a vicious and ongoing attack on any religious denomination in America, or attack any set of religious beliefs held by American citizens? Is not Religious Liberty the first and most basic right that *all* Americans hold dear? There certainly was no danger to the Nation from this religion of reason, science and investigation that has always had a strong tradition of upholding our most basic ideals of Liberty and Justice for *all*. To know why the Government destroyed Freethought and officially established and protects only the dead supernatural beliefs, especially Christianity, one must look to International Priestcraft -- the art of using governments to protect superstition for the power and profit of religion. Christianity cannot survive in a free country such as America was designed to be, it must be protected from the facts of science, and from the facts of its own bloody History.

International Priestcraft in Control.

Criminal Priestcraft goes beyond simply protecting dead religions, it demands that those religions control the nation and the world. As religions, like governments, are not entities in themselves but only groups of people, controlled almost entirely by men, it becomes obvious that religions are simply political organizations that use mythical terms to fool, frighten and control their followers. The idea of the American Founding Fathers that state and church could be kept separate is impossible when Priestcraft gets power over government. Throughout history the battle for political control has raged between the tribal Chief and the Witch Doctor, those two political powers have always fought for control of the tribe.

There is no doubt which political faction has won and now controls this tribe -- the United States. Religion has a purpose that is entirely hostile to Religious Liberty, freedom of thought, freedom of the press, and all other freedoms we hold dear, this is well known to every student of History. See Gen. Holdridge's letter under "some Interesting Letters" on this CD for his warning to the President and to Congress. The fact that Dr. Stephen Mumford was dismissed from his position in Government because of Catholic pressure is proof of the improper influence of religion in our Government -- see Dr. Mumford's books on this CD. The Catholic book of instructions for Catholics in "Politics and Professions" proves, 'from the horses mouth' that the Church instructs its members to betray their trust and commitment to the American people -- see "**Morals in Politics and Professions**" on this CD. These and many other such facts are absolute proof that the war is over and America is occupied and controlled by the religious enemies of freedom.

It is no wonder we have become the "ugly Americans" to the rest of the world. What has happened to American international relationships is exactly what any knowledgeable person a hundred years ago, or two hundred years ago, would have predicted if told that organized religion would infiltrate and control our Government. In fact President John Adams wrote a four volume history of the Jesuits that exposed their nature and purpose, and that nature and purpose has not changed in two hundred years.

To the Historian the troubles in the world today; the riots and unrest; the disappearances of political figures in "unfriendly" countries; the disappearances of hundreds of opposition people in "friendly" nations; the reports and rumors of murder and torture; the rumor that the United States has a school for torture, and all the rest would bring to mind but one word -- Jesuitism!

Destruction of Religious Liberty Necessary to Control.

The destruction of Religious Liberty by Government suppression was a major step toward destroying America as a free Nation. As is so clearly explained in Dr. Mumford's book, "American Democracy & The Vatican: Population Growth & National Security," that is on this CD-ROM, the mass immigration of Catholic people from Mexico and South America will change the political makeup of America and make America Catholic in the predictable future.

The Historian knows that the Catholic Church did the same thing in the last century. Many thousands of Irish Catholics flooded into America during the terrible Potato Famine in Ireland, and the church helped bring in Catholic people from many other countries. Had a reasonable percentage of the descendents of these people remained Catholic, America would have been Catholic before the turn of this Century -- 1900. But during the time when these immigrants were raising their families, and struggling to become established in America, the Freethought movement was strong and growing, and the truth about the history and claims of religion was available to all. This Freethought literature brought many religious people out of their old beliefs and raised them into the modern scientific and intellectual world of thought and investigation.

The Irish immigrants were often depicted as being ignorant and sub-human in cartoons, and were regarded as a burden on society because they produced an abundance of criminals at that time. But as the children of these immigrants attended American Public Schools, and learned the grand lessons of personal and religious freedom, these children became good Americans; cultured and honest, and an asset to our Country -- but only a few remained believers in their ancestral religion. (See "The Parochial School; A Curse to the Church, A Menace to the Nation" by Father Crowley, an Irish Catholic priest, that is on this CD-ROM.)

The people coming in from Mexico and South America today are, like the Irish a hundred and fifty years ago, believers in the religion they were born and "educated" into. But, like the Irish, or any believing Christian, they can be educated, elevated, and freed from their superstitious burden. The problem today is the absence of Freethought information in America. There is also the fact that the church now has special schools to prevent children from learning the true facts of Americanism -- the great ideals of Liberty and Justice for all that America was originally founded upon. And the American Public Schools themselves have been so badgered, 'watered down' and invaded by religious claptrap and repression that they are almost useless as secular and scientific institutions of education. Government suppression of Freethought has made it almost impossible to find information that would free the mind from the traps of superstition -- that being the whole reason for the destruction of Freethought in the first place; to allow the dead religions to survive and to dominate America.

The destruction of the Higher Religions of Freethought was so complete that the word "Freethought" and its religious meaning is almost unknown to the general public today. Who would imagine that Freethought was once a growing and vital religious philosophy that had promise of becoming the leading religion in America -- and in Western Civilization? The complete destruction of this vital component of our society by the unconstitutional -- un-American -- action of our National Government is a warning to all non-Christian religions that the same could (will) happen to them. If the Palmer Raids had been successful, and the unlimited police power they wield for a short time had continued, there would have been no need for a Nazi Germany, we would have become the Fascist force of the world. But within a few months the defenders of the American Constitution had restored the Rights of those arrested during the Raids and they were released, and those who had been deported were allowed to return to their homes and families in America.

But, as we have seen, while the outward appearance of a Police State was stopped there remained the active suppression of all progressive religious ideas by simply labeling them as "Communist," "Subversive," etc. There were other areas of Government harassment and suppression also, but the main one, and the one in which we are vitally interested, is the near complete destruction of all Rational Religion in America by slander, falsehood, harassment and hate.

Thirteen years after the Palmer Raids failed in America an almost identical move was made in Germany -- there it worked.

Can We Be Saved?

If it is true that our American Government has been corrupted by International Priestcraft, and has been made to devour its own best elements, where can we turn to find a force powerful enough, and intelligent (un-brainwashed) enough to bring us back to the great and grand ideals that America was originally founded upon? In short; can we yet be saved?

The Government used gangs of brutal private citizens to help with the Palmer Raid of January 2, 1920, these have been mentioned above as "and their accompanying vigilante groups." These vigilante groups were veterans organizations from World War One; "Veterans of Foreign Wars," "The American Legion" and Catholic Veterans organizations -- whatever Veterans organizations were active and willing in a city they were allowed (recruited) to help. Like most of the rest of the country at that time, these men were convinced that they were saving America from a great Red Conspiracy that was about to destroy everything we hold dear. These Veterans who had saved America on the battle fronts in Europe were determined and rigorous in their efforts to save America from its perceived enemies at home.

It is ironic, but perhaps the only force in America that might be strong enough, and have influence enough, to save America today are the very same Veterans organizations that helped launch its destruction in 1920.

By "force" we do not mean violence, not at all, nor any kind of confrontation with the Government. Mindless violence, or any violence, is the absolute enemy of what needs to be done. I deplore the rogue State Militias that train to overthrow our Government, they are the enemy of intelligence. First they are among those most fooled into working against every freedom the Bill of Rights guarantees, and they seek to establish a narrow dictatorship of what they perceive as their "Rights" only. I do not doubt the sincerity of their patriotism, but I question their understanding of what America is all about. If these people can calm their rage, and lay aside their induced prejudice

and their passion for violence, they might become an asset to this Nation in its time of need.

The American Legion.

Part two of "Facts and Fascism" a book by George Seldes, 1943, starts with a chapter on; "THE AMERICAN LEGION," and it reads: "THE American Legion is one of the largest and most powerful organizations in this country. The men who control it and have been in the saddle since its inception have made it one of the leading reactionary forces in America. The Legion is composed of a vast majority of men who are the victims of a plan financed by our ruling families. There is probably no greater example of mass misguidance in American history since World War I and the present Global War than the history of the million men of the Legion and its handful of misleaders."

I had concluded long ago that probably the only groups powerful enough to investigate what has, and is, happening in the United States, and have the prestige to convince the American people of their findings, would be the Veteran's groups -- the very groups that were used -- and I do mean "used" -- in the Palmer Raids. The George Seldes book only arrived yesterday, and looking through it I saw the above quote, it supported my conclusion that such groups, if they could just be made to open their eyes to the facts before them, might yet save our Nation. The problem is the same as it was for the Palmer Raids; these Veterans are as affected and misguided by mass propaganda as the general public. But there is hope that if these groups were to set up a 'Panel of Inquiry' that will honestly investigate the facts, they will find the Nation in great danger and will be able to issue guidelines to reestablish much of the original ideals of the American Founding Fathers that made this Nation great.

Many years ago, in the 1960s I believe, several of my letters were published in the local paper, and I received a vicious letter from a Post Commander of an American Legion Post. The letter called me every kind of Communist and traitor the man could think of. I replied in kind, pointing to four Honorable Discharges and two Veterans certificates from the U.S. Marine Corps, and Marine Corps Reserve, as my credentials as a "qualified" American. In my letter I pointed out that if he had his way America would be exactly like the Nazi Germany we had just fought a war against. I took his accusations one

by one and demolished them, my letter ended with "It is amazing how many Americans are brave enough to fight for their Country, but do not have the courage to THINK for it."

In a short time I received a long letter from this Post Commander, this time the tone was friendlier, and he ask many questions. My second letter to him fully answered each of his questions. A short time later I received a third letter from this Post Commander -- it was an apology for his first letter. Such experiences have convinced me that the Veteran's organizations, including, and especially, the Catholic Veteran's organizations, the American Legion, and even the Super Patriot Militias that are now a threat to every idea of Freedom we have under the Bill of Rights, are perhaps our only hope to restore America to the Great and Free Nation it was established to be.

The well orchestrated, and mysteriously financed, political move by the Christian Right to make America Christian, is simply treason against America as a free Nation. What would America be like if it should become Christian? A look at Ireland will answer the question -- only a thousand times worse because we are larger and have more weapons in private hands. A "Christian" America would be a constant religious war of one Christian sect against another. We would become a backward Nation where science must take a back seat to the primitive drivel of antiquated "Holy Books." All reasonable immigration control laws would disappear, and all birth control and conception control medicine, information and devices for birth control would be outlawed, and this would certainly turn America into a nation of starvation, misery and endless slums within fifty to seventy-five years.

The people that are flooding into the United States from Mexico and South America are fleeing to escape the poverty and suffering caused by overpopulation in their native lands. They are, like most people, good, hard working, people who seek only to find a better life for their families and themselves. They come to America because this Nation is not *yet* as overpopulated as their native lands. But what will America be like when their children are raising children? There is no danger as important as overpopulation.

The Catholic People.

There is no one in History that understood the difference between the Catholic Church and Vatican politics better than Lord Acton, the great English Catholic Historian. As a Roman Catholic Lord Acton was outraged by the bloody history of massacres and disastrous political intrigues that were engineered by the Vatican. As an Historian he researched and exposed these Christian bloodbaths and traced them to their roots. "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely" he said, and he worked to show that the evil and corruption caused by the Vatican, and the Jesuits, was not the fault of the Church, and certainly not the will of the Catholic people. Acton considered the Catholic people the Church, and he knew they were good. I sincerely believe that the vast majority of the Catholic people, and the Catholic Veterans, would be the very first to seek to reestablish our Constitutional freedoms that has allowed their Church to prosper in peace with their non-Catholic neighbors.

Emmett F. Fields
Bank of Wisdom
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